

# THE *Country* GUIDE

CANADA'S NATIONAL RURAL MONTHLY

APPLIED SCIENCE READING ROOM

In This Issue . . .

- What About Farm Credit
- Farm Laying Flock
- Old House for New

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# THE Country GUIDE

Incorporating The Nor-West Farmer and Farm and Home  
CANADA'S NATIONAL RURAL MONTHLY

## In This Issue

- **KNOW-HOW IN THE FEEDLOT.** J. A. Peck has some sound advice to offer on feedlot planning and mechanization in "Easing the Livestock Load" on page 17.

- **EAGLE'S KINGDOM**, the first of a series of three wildlife stories by Norah Burke, is on page 15. Clarence Tillenius, top-ranking Canadian wildlife artist, has done the illustrations. He has also illustrated "Wildfire," our fiction feature on page 16.

- **BEFORE SPUTNIK** and the resultant increased respect for learning, plans were laid for a Canadian Conference on Education at which several hundred persons would analyze education's ills. A report of the event is given on page 70.

**AFTER THE ELECTION.** Farm policies of the newly elected government are reviewed by Ralph Hedlin on page 22. The editorial page, now moved to page 4, comments on challenges facing the Government.

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Learning from Grandpa—by Mechling

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# Editorials

## Challenges to the New Government

THERE is little doubt that the next 4 or 5 years are going to be critical ones for Canadian farmers. While it is true that our farm people have done a great deal to help themselves through individual and group action, and can be counted on to do even more, the fact remains that for a variety of reasons peculiar to the industry in which they are engaged, government assistance programs are still essential to their welfare and indirectly to the welfare of the nation as a whole.

Because of this, and in the knowledge that there is a new government about to take office in Ottawa, it seems appropriate at this time to devote our editorial comments this month to government agricultural policy and programs. Two fields of government responsibility—farm credit and rural development—are elaborated on in separate editorials on this page. Several other major fields of government activity have been discussed in past issues. Since they are no less significant and timely, we make brief mention of them again to underscore their importance and the need for imaginative and prompt action.

The late Dr. E. C. Hope, in a feature article in our January issue, stated that it is doubtful if agricultural production in Canada can be brought into balance with effective demand as long as we have such large stocks of wheat, coupled with the inability of the western grain

producer to sell what he produces, and that this single factor probably is the key to the current farm problem. We shared this view and suggested at the time that the Federal Government should call a working party of qualified persons together for the sole purpose of finding out if everything was being done that could be done to reduce the stock position to more reasonable proportions. Nothing has happened in the interval to change our minds about the need for such an undertaking. The Canadian Government should proceed with plans for it without further delay.

In the past, animal science research has been given less emphasis and has lagged behind field crop research in this country. One criterion for effective research is that it be done in advance of the time when it is needed. If the Gordon Commission report on "Progress and Prospects of Canadian Agriculture" is anywhere near to being right about the future demand for livestock products, then the Department of Agriculture should be giving serious consideration to its animal research program. As the report states, it would seem reasonable to place particular emphasis on the improvement of beef cattle, feeding for beef production, production of forage crops, and the carrying capacity of grasslands. Expanded research programs can also be justified in the fields of agricultural meteorology, the indus-

trial use of farm products, and in farm economics and rural sociology.

Much has been written and said about the new Agricultural Stabilization Act, the provisions of which are on the verge of being brought into effect. There has been a tendency for Government spokesmen to overemphasize the degree to which the legislation can be effective in raising farm incomes, and to oversimplify the difficulties in applying it. For our part we believe the value of the legislation in helping to bring greater stability to farming will depend in large measure on the way in which it is to be administered. That this is a time when more liberal use of price supports and deficiency payments is justified, there is little question. Nevertheless, those responsible must exercise more than the usual amount of wisdom in applying the stabilization program. It should not be a continuous incentive to more rapid expansion of production, nor should it prevent necessary and desirable adjustments in agriculture from taking place. Otherwise, the new program will defeat the purpose for which it was undertaken.

As far back as 1949 the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture have been advocating the adoption of a comprehensive national soil and water conservation and land use policy for this country. Without elaborating, the need for such a program is obvious and of fundamental importance to the long-run future of Canadian agriculture. Soil and water are magic words to most farmers, and should be to the nation. It is to be hoped that the new government will gain the full co-operation of the provinces in planning and initiating a sound conservation program, and any other measures designed for the betterment of Canadian agriculture. V

## Farm Credit

LACK of adequate capital has been a chronic ailment of agriculture in Canada for a long time. This lack is one of the major reasons why the majority of our farm population have not been able to enjoy a standard of living comparable to that of other groups in our economy. As technological advances have swept into farming, radical changes in farm organization and operations have become necessary. So much so that the chronic lack of capital is now an acute problem.

New evidence to substantiate this claim has been brought to light in a report just released by the director of the Soldier Settlement and Veterans' Land Act. The well-trained V.L.A. field staff is in the process of conducting a survey on the amount of additional credit required by settlers to put their farm operations on a sound, economic family unit basis. An analysis of the first 3,000 individual appraisals which represents a good cross-section, reveals that the additional credit required on the average is \$6,696. The reorganized and refinanced enterprises would require 38 per cent additional land and somewhat more labor than at present.

While there are several questions that might be asked about the study, we can deal with only two of the most important here. What would be the effect on the net incomes of the farmers involved? What would be the effect on future production trends? Here is what the report shows: The current average net income of the group is \$3,291, or \$1,077 less than what is calculated to give an average standard of living. The proper use of the additional credit would raise the net income on the average to \$5,218—an increase of \$1,927 or 58 per cent, and this after providing for the carrying charges on the additional indebtedness. With respect to the second question, the survey indicates clearly that the group would be adjusting their future production away from hard-to-

sell products, and toward those food products which it is predicted will be in high and ever-increasing demand. The report concludes that supervised farm credit can be an effective instrument and is worthy of a major action on the part of our agricultural and political leaders.

We submit that the agricultural leaders have already done their job. They have long recognized the need and repeatedly requested that specific and appropriate action be taken. Up to now, the farm credit program has been inadequate, overly cautious and unimaginative. During the recent election campaign all parties promised to do something constructive to correct the situation. Our elected representatives can learn much from the V.L.A. study and the carefully prepared article on farm credit which begins on page 13 of this issue.

Once Parliament is in session, there will be no excuse for not enacting the necessary legislation with all possible dispatch. V

## Rural Development

THIS publication has on a number of occasions drawn attention to the fact that in Canada there are an unusually large number of abnormally low-income farms, quite apart from the residential and part-time farms which contribute relatively small amounts to family income. That they persist is an indication the farmers on them all too frequently have neither the knowledge nor the resources nor, in some cases, the necessary motivation, to improve their own positions. Price support programs are of little help to most of those people, nor can an improved farm credit policy, by itself, solve their problems.

We have suggested that the time is long overdue when our governments, both federal and provincial, should accept the responsibility for initiating a national program to widen the opportunities for families on such farms.

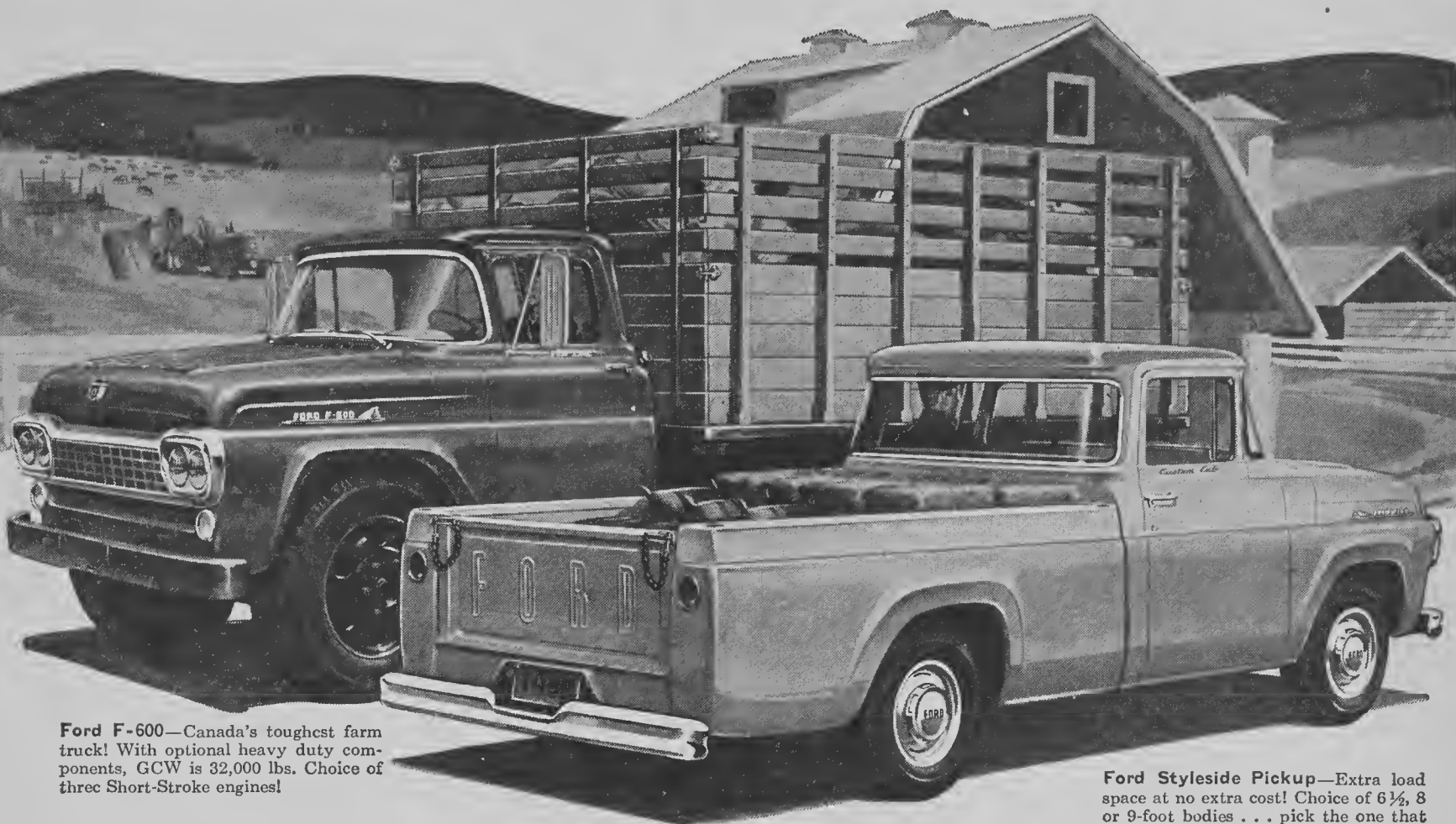
If the Federal Government requires some leads as to how they might approach the problem, it could do no better than to study the Rural Development Program which was launched in the United States in 1955. Broadly speaking, the objective of this program is to help farm people with low incomes achieve the goals to which they aspire. At the time the program began, one-quarter of the U.S. farm families were receiving cash incomes of less than \$1,000 per year. The U.S. approach is a co-ordinated one involving various agencies and organizations working in the fields of education, public health, industrial development, social security and civic improvement, as well as agriculture. By working together, they aim to achieve balanced economic and social development in rural areas.

Principal activities being promoted among low-income families to meet the objective are these: Increased extension work in farming methods and homemaking; credit assistance where appropriate; improved vocational education; projects to improve health services; and, effective employment counselling services to assist the underemployed to find full or part-time jobs in industry and trades. This latter activity is being supported by campaigns to expand industry in rural, low-income areas. Rural development is being carried forward on a trial basis, and has already spread to 30 states and more than 100 rural counties. The key to its success is the county committee, made up of leaders in farming, business, civic and church affairs, with government agencies co-operating.

Too little of this nature has been done in rural Canada. An imaginative development program is badly needed. Its value can not be measured. We wonder if the newly elected government at Ottawa has the courage to accept the challenge. Surely Canada as a nation has not only a moral obligation in this field, but can ill afford to neglect the full development of the human resources involved. V



# When you're hauling a herd or the fodder to feed it

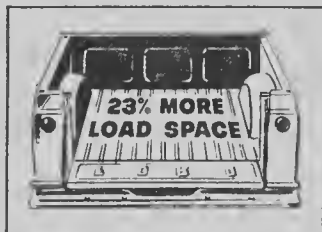


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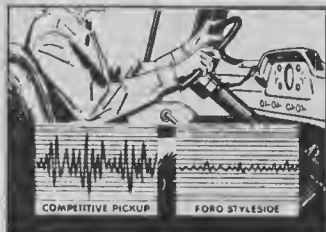
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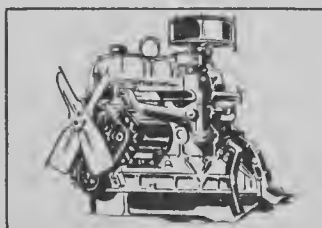
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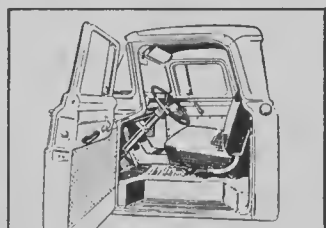
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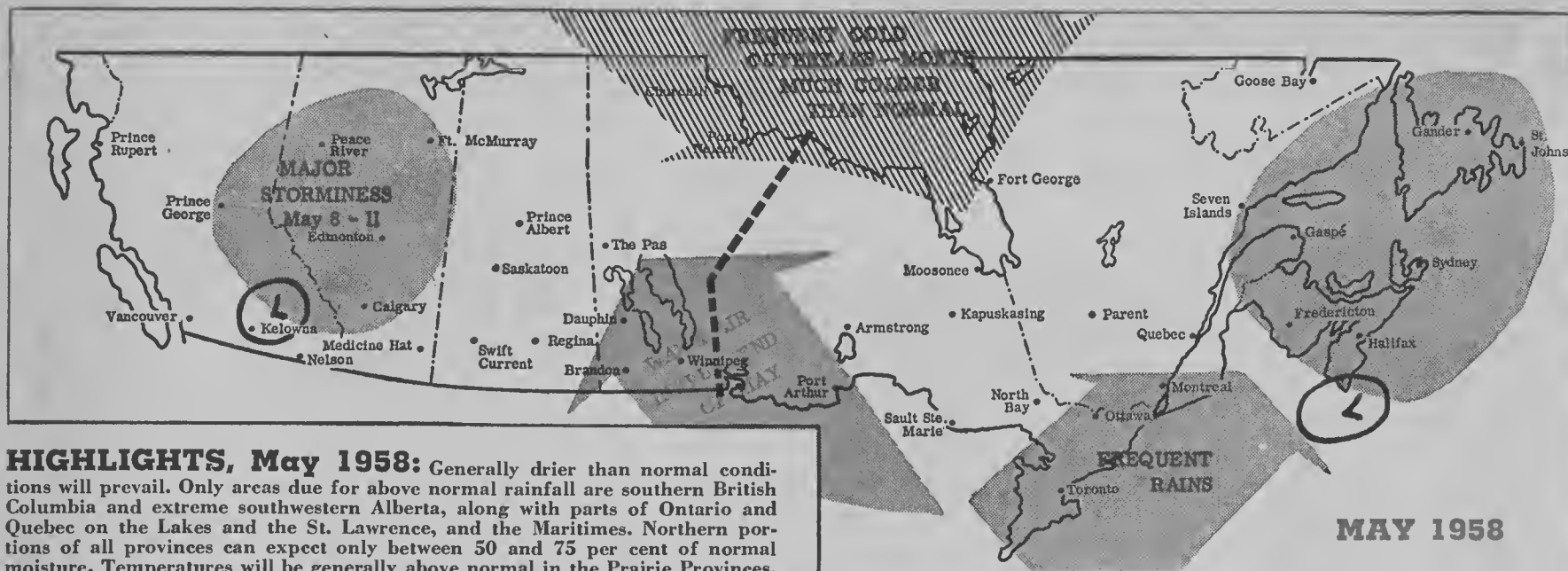
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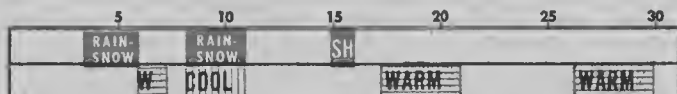
**HIGHLIGHTS, May 1958:** Generally drier than normal conditions will prevail. Only areas due for above normal rainfall are southern British Columbia and extreme southwestern Alberta, along with parts of Ontario and Quebec on the Lakes and the St. Lawrence, and the Maritimes. Northern portions of all provinces can expect only between 50 and 75 per cent of normal moisture. Temperatures will be generally above normal in the Prairie Provinces, but monthly readings as much as four degrees below normal can be expected in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.

(Allow a day or two either way in using this forecast. It should be 75 per cent right for your area, but not necessarily for your farm.—ed.)

## Alberta

- First Week: 1-3** No major storminess this period, although clouds will be increasing on week end. Daytime temperatures in 60's, lower 70's.
- Second Week: 4-10** Week will open with storminess and showers during first two or three days, followed by warm period at mid-week; more showers, cold temperatures, snow toward week end.
- Third Week: 11-17** Early part of week will feature fairly good weather, temperatures in 60's. Brief showers can be expected latter part of the week. Cool week end.
- Fourth Week: 18-24** Generally warm temperatures, daytime readings in 60's and 70's first three or four days. Showers at week end mostly in eastern Alberta.
- Fifth Week: 25-31** Clearing at beginning of week, no major storminess indicated during period. Mostly warm temperatures; daytimes 70's and 80's.

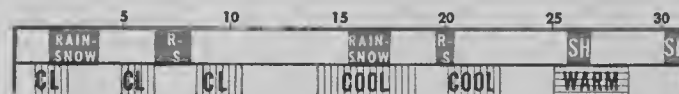
PRECIPITATION  
**MAY**  
TEMPERATURE



## Ontario

- First Week: 1-3** Cool outbreak at week end will drop temperatures to near freezing south, into 20's north. Showers are expected at week end.
- Second Week: 4-10** There will be a clearing trend early in the week, with cool temperatures at mid-week. Showers at mid-week will be followed by more cool temperatures, below freezing north.
- Third Week: 11-17** Mostly fair weather early part of week, cool outbreak and showers moving in at the week end. Temperatures dropping to 40's south and 20's north.
- Fourth Week: 18-24** Clearing first of week, but more showers will move in briefly at mid-week. Cool weather predominant with coolest periods at start and middle of week.
- Fifth Week: 25-31** Generally warm and showery, with showers early in week and again at the week end. Daytime temperatures will be in the 70's.

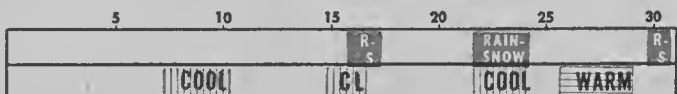
PRECIPITATION  
**MAY**  
TEMPERATURE



## Saskatchewan

- First Week: 1-3** No major storminess this period, frequent clear skies, daytime temperatures middle 60's, overnight lows upper 30's.
- Second Week: 4-10** Early part of week mostly fair weather, mild temperatures with daytime highs in 60's. Cold outbreak toward week end, dropping temperatures below freezing at many locations.
- Third Week: 11-17** Warming temperatures early in week. Showers late in the week will be accompanied by cool outbreak, with temperatures down to near freezing.
- Fourth Week: 18-24** Showers at beginning of week will give way to clear skies, temperatures in 70's. More showers and cool weather can be expected at the week end.
- Fifth Week: 25-31** Mostly warm, fair weather this week, except for some shower activity at week end. Temperatures will be up to the 70's-80's.

PRECIPITATION  
**MAY**  
TEMPERATURE



## Quebec

- First Week: 1-3** The end of this week will produce both showers and cool weather, spread generally over the province.
- Second Week: 4-10** After clearing skies in the early part of the week, brief showers will occur at mid-week. Cool temperatures expected at mid-week and again at the week end.
- Third Week: 11-17** Clear skies, with mild temperatures first part of week. Daytime highs in upper 50's, 60's. Storminess again with cool temperatures at week end.
- Fourth Week: 18-24** Clearing at beginning of week, but with cool temperatures. Showers and cool temperatures again at mid-week. Minimum below freezing in north.
- Fifth Week: 25-31** Generally warm temperatures and frequent showers. In the 70's much of the week; showers at beginning and again at week end.

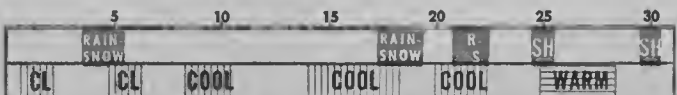
PRECIPITATION  
**MAY**  
TEMPERATURE



## Manitoba

- First Week: 1-3** Cold outbreak at week end will send temperatures into lower 20's. Snow showers, mixed with rain, will come at end of week.
- Second Week: 4-10** Showers are expected early in week; temperatures will be generally cool early in week and again at week end. Overnight lows should frequently sink to near freezing.
- Third Week: 11-17** Warming trend at beginning of week should increase daytime temperatures to 60's in south, and 40's in north. Cold again at week end is forecast.
- Fourth Week: 18-24** It will be mostly cool this week, with frequent shower activity expected at beginning of week and again at mid-week period.
- Fifth Week: 25-31** Warming trend throughout the week, temperatures climbing into 60's north, 80's south. Showers at beginning and end of the week.

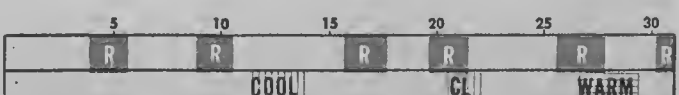
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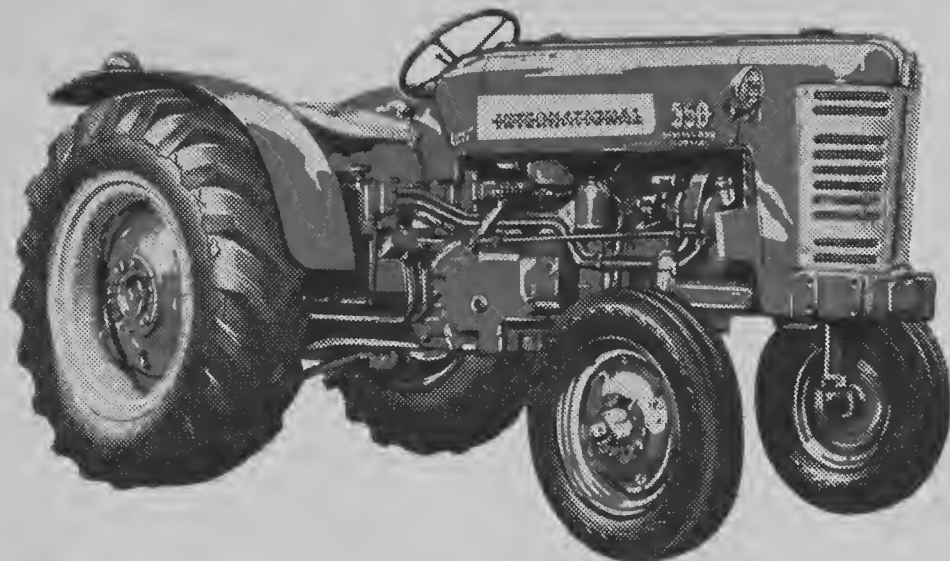
## Maritime Provinces

- First Week: 1-3** No major storminess is expected during this period. In the daytime, temperatures will go up to the 50's and 60's.
- Second Week: 4-10** Showers are forecast for early in week, and these will be followed by clearing, mild weather at mid-week. Intermittent showers will come again at week end.
- Third Week: 11-17** Clearing skies early in week, with cold outbreak dropping temperatures to low 30's. Mild temperatures, with showers again at week end.
- Fourth Week: 18-24** Brief clearing expected early in week, but more intermittent showers at mid-week. Cool outbreak at week end unimportant.
- Fifth Week: 25-31** Warming temperatures this week, with daytime readings frequently in 70's. Showers early in the week and again at the week end.

PRECIPITATION  
**MAY**  
TEMPERATURE



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# GUIDEPOSTS

## UP-TO-DATE FARM MARKET FORECASTS

**BEEF CATTLEMEN** enjoy reasonably vigorous markets and prices stimulated by strong U.S. demand--choice grade prices there, at \$33.50 in mid-March, were a third over a year earlier. Marketings of heavy fed cattle in U.S. will increase and likely take keen edge off price.

**HOG PRICES**, in no difficulty all winter, may slip some this month. Marketings increased 7 per cent in first weeks of year, but were absorbed at profitable prices. With hog-feed ratio favorable and farrowings expected up this spring, a sizeable increase in fall marketings is probable.

**POULTRY PRODUCTS** have come into their own with budget-conscious consumers now hunting for meat bargains. Prices remain firm in spite of large supplies.

**LAMB PRICES** are higher than a year ago with marketings off slightly.

**WHEAT EXPORT** prospects next season not encouraging. Forecasts for better-than-ever U.S. winter wheat yield, combined with excellent European crop prospects, will make selling Canadian crop real chore unless new markets open up in some under-developed countries.

**RAPESEED ACREAGE** in Saskatchewan headed for another substantial increase. As indicated in last month's Country Guide, farmers' willingness to produce is forcing research in new uses and markets.

**FLAXSEED ACREAGE** may decline as poor yields last year in Saskatchewan and Manitoba discouraged many growers. Some farmers may take a hard second look at this crop this spring. In U.S., price support set at \$2.78 a bushel, and plantings may be off 20 per cent.

**LAGGING FEED BARLEY SALES** have definitely felt effect of low-priced U.S. feed grain sales. U.S. exports are up about one-fourth from a year ago.

**EGG PRICES** are stronger in Eastern Canada but still weak in West. U.S. supplies are declining. Fall price prospects now appear more favorable.

**POTATO PRICES** have bounced up in the Maritimes. Early U.S. crop is down sharply. Starch diversion programs there have been halted.

**OAT MOVEMENT** could improve this month as large Eastern crop disappears and lake shipments make possible further sales to U.S.

**OVERSIZE APPLES**, a peculiarity of last year's growing season, have caused marketing headaches for B.C. growers. A few large West Coast U.S. apples are finding an outlet on Eastern Canadian markets.

**PACKAGE BEES** will be scarce in Manitoba and Saskatchewan due to hard winter in Southern and Central U.S. California supplies are ample. Some honey carryover may be welcome.

## ONTARIO DAIRY HERDS SHOW BIG IMPROVEMENT

Considerable improvement has been made by members of Dairy Herd Improvement Associations in Ontario, a recent study of the Farm Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture showed.

For example, in the Ontario (Brooklyn) Association, net returns in 1950 averaged a loss of \$142 per herd, while in 1957 this net average represented a gain of \$1,599. Production per cow rose from 8,168 lb. in 1950 to 8,684 lb. in 1957. Pounds of concentrate fed per cow equivalent amounted to 2,318 in 1950 as against only 1,922 in 1957. Man-hours per cow dropped from 150 in 1950 to only 87 in 1957. Hundredweights of milk sold per \$100 of investment rose from 10 in 1950 to 15 in 1957. The 1950 average number of milking cows per herd was 16 and, by 1957, this figure had risen to 29. The price received per hundredweights in 1951 was \$3.77 and, in 1957, the price was \$4.23.

There are 59 Dairy Herd Improvement Associations in Ontario, with an average membership of 24 farmers in each.

## ALBERTA BOARD VOTED IN

Southern Alberta vegetable growers have approved the establishment of a compulsory marketing board to handle vegetables for commercial canning and freezing. Agriculture Minister Halmrast announced that 68.95 per cent of the eligible voters cast ballots in favor of the producer marketing plan. Fresh vegetables are not involved in the scheme.

## MANITOBA PLAN REJECTED

The proposed producer controlled vegetable marketing plan for Manitoba was rejected by a narrow margin. While 55.23 per cent of those voting wanted such a plan, a 60 per cent favorable vote is required by law to bring one into operation. Of the 803 ballots mailed to eligible growers, 761, or 94.7 per cent, were returned. Of these, 417 favored the vegetable marketing plan, 338 were against it, and there were 6 spoiled ballots. Commercial growers eligible to vote were those who, in 1957, grew at least 4 acres of vegetables for sale. Another vote cannot be held until 2 years have passed.

## HELP FOR SHEEP INDUSTRY

Representatives of Canada's sheep industry met in Ottawa recently to plan a program to stimulate production and improve the position of the industry. The conference was held at the invitation of Minister of Agriculture Harkness who pointed out, in welcoming the delegates, that sheep raising is one branch of agriculture that can be expanded without fear of exceeding the needs of the domestic market for either lamb or wool.

Those present discussed and agreed on the following points:

- Increased emphasis needed to be given in extension programs to the training of young men who lacked experience with sheep in the details of management.
- More effective use could be made of surplus crossbred western

females for farm flocks. Organized crossbreeding programs, using local breeds, were reported to have shown promise.

- An improved system of farm credit would help in the establishment of new flocks in areas suited to sheep raising, and in assisting present flock owners to enlarge their operations.

- The establishment of deficiency payments on wool, under the Agricultural Stabilization Act, would give greater stability to the sheep industry.

- There is a considerable potential market for freshly killed Canadian lamb and a major problem was to develop production to meet this demand.

- To encourage the consumption of Canadian lamb and to insure its identification from imported lamb, grading and branding of dressed lambs should be extended through the co-operation of provincial and federal government marketing services.

A continuing committee is to be set up to give the subject of increasing sheep production in Canada further study, and to develop the groundwork for a broad national sheep policy.

## 1958 ACREAGE GUIDES

Would it help you in making your 1958 planting plans if you knew what other growers intended to do?

This is the assumption underlying the estimates of intended acreages forecast by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The DBS report released on March 19 is based on a crop correspondent survey conducted in co-operation with provincial departments and is indicative of farmers' plans at March 1. It should be remembered, however, that the actual acreages seeded may vary considerably from the intention figures, depending on conditions before and during seeding, the availability of good quality seed, contractual arrangements, the market outlook, and the possible effect of the report on intended acreages itself.

According to the report, Canadian farmers plan a slight decrease in wheat acreage this year. The prospective acreage to be seeded to wheat is the smallest since 1943 when a special war-time acreage reduction program was in effect. Acreage declines are also indicated for fall rye, flaxseed, corn for grain, and soybeans. These intended acreage reductions are offset by prospective increases in the acreage to be used for oats for grain, barley, mixed grains, potatoes, mustard seed, rapeseed, sunflower seed, spring rye and summerfallow. For the major grain crops and summerfallow, indicated acreage changes tend to be moderate.

The following is the picture presented by the DBS report on intended acreages for the main field crops for 1958:

Wheat. All wheat acreage may stand at 20.6 million acres, a decrease of 0.4 million acres from 1957 seedings and 4.1 million acres, or 16 per cent, below the 1952-56 average. The major part of the 1958 anticipated decline is in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, where reductions of 2 and 5 per cent, respectively,

(Please turn to page 64)

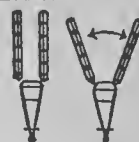
# You'll save field time and do a better weeding job with a HARROWEEDER!



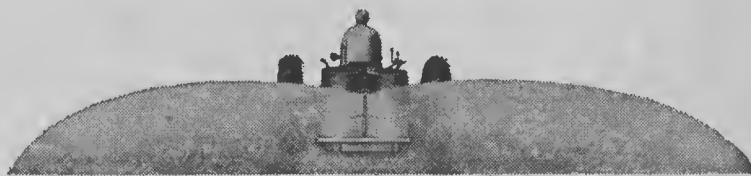
## THIS "WIGGLE" MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!

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THE HARROWEEDER cultivates cleaner, and (depending on size) up to fourteen times as fast as a 2-row cultivator. Available in 15 to 55-ft. widths, it converts to transport position in minutes. Sections are raised, drawbar folds up and wheels adapt to trailing position. In the field, put tractor in reverse and wing section opens automatically, and you're ready to go. You'll save time and get bigger and better yields from your land with the Harrowweeder.

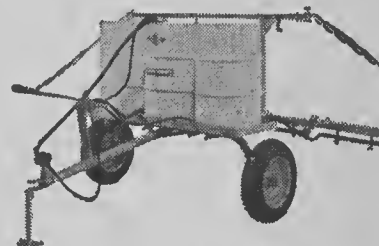


## New Farmhand-Kromer Sprayers!

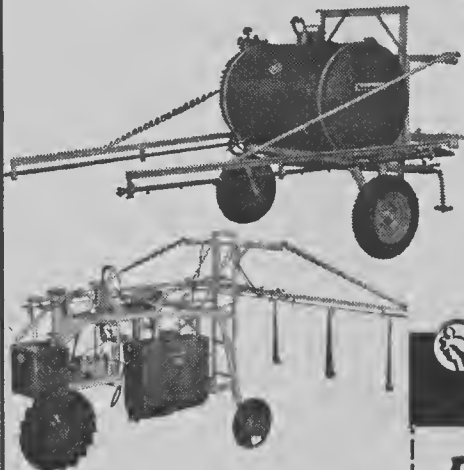


SPRAY AN ACRE A MINUTE with the low-cost Farmhand-Kromer Broad Fan boomless sprayer. The Broad Fan puts down a 50-ft. swath of heavy droplet spray that covers and kills thoroughly. Single nozzle prevents overlap or skip. Available in three models, depending upon pump and controls required.

ECONOMY SPRAYERS, both trailer and tractor mounted, incorporate many Farmhand-Kromer exclusive features. As a result, they're the finest sprayers you can buy for such a low price. Full 1" dia. booms, safety breakaway boom hinges, 2 and 3-barrel racks to fit all tractors. Compare these features with any equipment now on the market!



FARMHAND-KROMER Deluxe sprayers offer choice of 200 or 300-gal. tanks; full 1" dia. booms are tapered every 10" for perfect coverage. Finish "X"-coated tanks and booms are unconditionally guaranteed against rust and chemical corrosion, inside and out . . . only Farmhand-Kromer offers this patented metal coating. Sliding boom rack, corrosion-resistant "Black Life" aluminum fittings, special 2-piston or roller pumps.



YOUR BEST CROP INSURANCE, from pre-emergence to harvest is a Farmhand-Kromer Hy-Row self-propelled sprayer. Corn raisers have found the spray from the Kromer wide angle nozzles penetrates even the densest foliage, giving complete coverage and thorough kill. Corn topping attachments are also available to speed field drying and make harvesting faster and easier. Several models available, all with Finish "X" tanks and booms, plus many new comfort and safety features.

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R1-8

## What Farm Organizations Are Doing

The Interprovincial Farm Union Council strongly criticized the choice of personnel named to the Agricultural Stabilization Board in a letter to Minister of Agriculture Harkness.

James Patterson, president, stated that the Agriculture Stabilization Act had enough provisions to do a good job if properly applied, but that the Council failed to see how the legislation would get half a chance under the personnel chosen to administer it — people thoroughly indoctrinated with the Gardiner philosophy for well-nigh 20 years.

"We find it difficult to believe that you are responsible for these appointments in view of the history of these men, and the fact that they have been quite ineffective in handling the previous legislation. We firmly believe that the Board chairman should be a man who can go out and meet the farmers; in fact, we expect that of him. Mr. Turner could no doubt do that; Mr. Pearsall could not. We do not feel there is any place on this Board for Messrs. Shaw, Chagnon and Pearsall.

"We have every respect for these men individually, but neither their training nor their past experience can justify either appointment, in view of the necessity for men on this . . . Board who are thoroughly conversant with the farm situation today, and who have a comprehensive grounding in farm policy."

Farm Organizations in Alberta sponsored a 2-week advance leadership course at the Banff School of Fine Arts in March. The participants, numbering 46 in all, included farm people and a few fieldmen from farm and co-operative organizations.

This rural adult education course was spearheaded by the University of Alberta Extension Service, and was supported by the Farmers' Union of Alberta, the Alberta Wheat Pool, the United Grain Growers Limited, United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Ltd., and the Alberta Federation of Agriculture.

The program was designed to provide theory and background information for application to current farm problems. Such subjects as human relations, public relations, economics, and rural social problems were dealt with in a thought-provoking manner. A study was also made of farm organizations and the problems they are dealing with in the interests of farm people.

The Manitoba Federation of Agriculture and Co-operation, in a brief to the Manitoba Physical Education and Recreation Study Committee, stressed the necessity for equal opportunity for rural people and students to enjoy recreational and physical education facilities comparable to those available to people in urban centers.

The MFAC recommended the setting up of a physical education and recreation division in one of the government departments, which would

be under the supervision of a qualified director. This director should exercise the responsibilities of his division throughout the province on a similar basis to that of the agricultural representative service. His district personnel should be expected to train community volunteer leaders, supervise organized community programs, and supply the link between the provincial office and the communities.

The MFAC recognized that the establishment of an adequate program would require the expenditure of a considerable amount of money. It suggested, however, that past expenditures in this field should not be used as a yardstick to measure present and future needs. The Federation expressed the belief that the financing was not the responsibility of the provincial government alone, but that a program for physical education and recreation should be shared jointly with the local community.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture sent 11 representatives to the 4-day sessions of the Canadian Conference on Education, which was held in Ottawa the latter part of February. A full report of the Conference appears on page 70 of this issue.

A recent CFA news and information bulletin assessed the Conference in the following terms:

"... There is no doubt that it (the Conference) was of very great worth to the delegates attending it, giving them an insight into problems and opinions, and introducing them to facts in a way that could not be done by other means. On the whole the CFA delegates were agreed that the workshop discussions were very good. When the final resolution sheet appeared on the last day, however, it became apparent that one way or another the resolutions presented to the whole Conference did not adequately reflect the quality of either the discussion in the workshops or the decisions and agreement reached in them, as these were reflected in the reports of the workshop chairmen.

"Two resolutions were introduced as matters of privilege that did not appear on the resolution sheet, on the grounds that they properly should have been there. One of these was moved by Dr. H. H. Hannam — on adult education. A second was introduced by members of the workshop on the home and education. There was definitely quite a lot of disappointment in the conference at the inadequacy of the final conference resolutions."

The CFA bulletin goes on to point out, however, that this lack is not all fatal, because the reports of the workshops will be published and available for future reference and use. At the same time, CFA officers believe that should future conferences be held a good deal more attention should be given to the whole question of the orderly making, recording and forwarding of recommendations.

(Please turn to page 86)





In Pakistan even the dragging mud of monsoon drenched roads couldn't hold back the Fairlane 500.

## FORD's rugged body defied the world's toughest roads



In Afghanistan, Ford's tough body structure stood up superbly to the wrenching grind of the world's most "car-killing" roads.

Meet the toughest go-getter on the road today!

The 58 Ford — first car ever to use the whole world as a test track.

Ford's toughness starts with the frame itself, the new 'Inner Ford'. It is *bowed out* in the center for greater strength and stability . . . is welded, braced and bonded to form one incredibly tough unit.

Ford's ball joint front suspension took a merciless pounding on the world's worst roads. Then, back home, it was examined by Ford engineers. Pronounced "still fit, still ready for more of the same!" Proof of long-lasting, hard-dollar *value* in the 58 Ford—at no extra cost to you. See your Ford Dealer soon!



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But here is the *most* important and *biggest* saving of all . . . the years of extra life built into the GB keeps that big-production bonus coming in crop after crop.

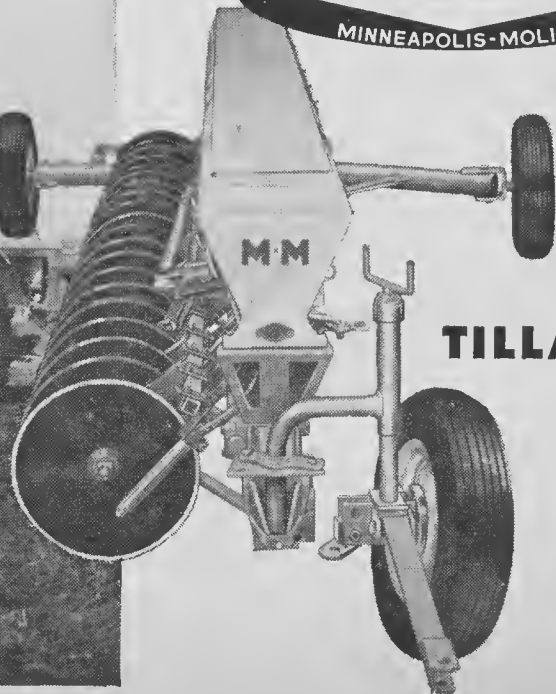
Check with your MM Dealer. Ask him to field-test the GB tractor on your farm—on 5-6 plow jobs. See for yourself why the GB pays you, as no other tractor can!

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**BIG CAPACITY—  
FOR BIG TILLAGE JOBS!**

The *biggest* jobs are just the *right* size for this MM Flexible Tillagor! Cutting widths up to 15½ feet give you money-saving capacity for seedbed preparation, discing summer fallow or any tillage jobs. Flexible gangs roll right over stones . . . follow contours for uniform depth. Available with or without Moline-Monitor seeding attachment.

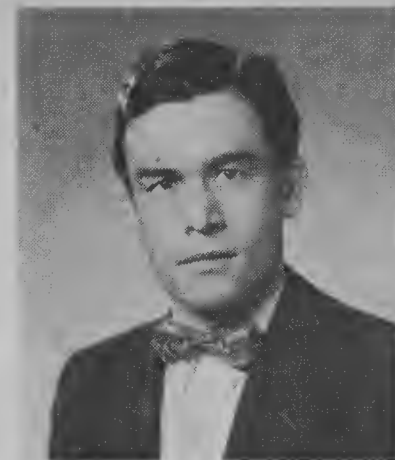


**TILLAGOR**

# LET'S EXAMINE FARM CREDIT

by J. C. GILSON

*Used wrongly, credit can cause grief and disaster,  
but it can also be a powerful tool for the farmer*



Dr. Gilson has made an extensive study of farm credit. He is associate professor of agricultural economics at the University of Manitoba.

ONE of the most important topics of discussion in agricultural circles at the present time is that of farm credit. There is a widespread feeling that the present lending institutions are not designed to meet the requirements of a modern, commercial agriculture. There seems to be little doubt that many of the current problems of Canadian agriculture are very closely related to the problems of finance. Experience has shown that the ability of a farmer to finance a farm business on a sound basis is as important as the ability to produce and market crops and livestock efficiently.

Credit is a vital asset to farmers. Proper use of credit will often enable a farmer to increase his income as much as, or more than, it could be increased by working extra hours. As a matter of fact, many farmers in Canada at the present time are "inefficient," either because they do not have enough capital to work with, or because credit is not being properly used in the farm business.

Actually, debates on farm credit have a long history. As early as 1664, farmers in Quebec were making violent complaints that merchants were unjustly seizing their grain in payment for past debts. It seems that farmers have always regarded credit as a necessary evil. One of the early American farm organizations even published a song called "Do Not Mortgage the Farm." Some have described debt as the "devil's salary."

Many farm people who remember the "dirty thirties" and the sad experiences with farm credit know that debt took a costly toll. There were mortgage foreclosures, heartaches and loss of old family farms. Many of the present-day farmers who lived through the Depression, and who had their fingers burned with debt, will have absolutely nothing to do with farm credit. They regard debt as the worst kind of poverty.

On the other hand, many of us know farmers who used credit around the beginning of the last war to great advantage. They purchased land at low prices and used credit extensively during the last 15 years. Many of these farmers today have extensive farm holdings, and many of them carry no farm debt. Perhaps this is the reason why some describe success in farming as an accident of birth—"it depends on when you started to farm."

Farm credit is a two-edged sword, make no mistake about that. Used wrongly it can cause grief and financial disaster. On the other hand, credit can be one of the most powerful "tools" of production in modern farming. It takes money to make money, and credit is frequently the starting point.

## Capital Needs of Farming

It would be interesting to know how a young man in the city would respond to the following advertisement:

**"Wanted: A capable, well-trained young man for opening in business. Salary uncertain. Will need to supply own tools and equipment estimated to be around \$25,000."**

Perhaps this sounds absurd. But is this not the situation confronting the young man wanting a position in the business of farming?

There is a tremendous capital investment in the agricultural industry of Canada. Approximately 575,000 farmers in Canada have a capital investment of over \$10 billion. Of this investment, 62 per cent is invested in land and buildings, 14 per cent in implements and machinery, and the remainder in livestock. It required a cash outlay of \$1.7 billion in 1956 to operate the 575,000 farms in Canada.

Studies in various parts of Canada indicate that the modern, commercial family farm requires a capital investment of between \$30,000 to \$50,000. Annual cash operating expenses may vary from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

Unfortunately, however, there are many farmers in Canada with less than anything like an economic size of farm unit. In 1951, 64.5 per cent of all the farms in Canada were smaller than 240 acres of land. This same group shared only 40 per cent of the total investment in implements and machinery, and 48 per cent of the total investment in land and buildings in Canadian agriculture. There is a real need to use farm credit as the instrument to improve the position of this group of farmers in Canada.

## Situations Requiring Credit

It is practically impossible to estimate the number of farmers needing credit at the present time. There are several types of situations, however, where it is safe to assume that greatly increased quantities of farm credit are needed.

1. *Father to son transfers of the farm business.* Based on studies in Saskatchewan, there is a 2.5 per cent turnover in farms every year. If this held true for Canada, approximately 14,000 farms would become available this year. It is obvious that farm credit is needed in many cases to pay off the retiring father and to permit the son to begin farming. In other words, farm credit is the bridge over which the family farm is passed from one generation to the next.

2. *Uneconomic size of farm unit.* A good many of the farms in Canada are too small to provide the family with a decent level of living. In 1951, for example, 51 per cent of the farmers sold less than \$2,500 worth of produce. Based on these figures, it is reasonable to assume that over 200,000 farmers require considerable credit at the present time to expand their farm business. Most of the farmers in this group do not have the necessary collateral or security base to obtain credit from the present lending institutions.

3. *Needed changes in the present farm organization.* Many farmers in Canada require a drastic change in their farm organization if they are to produce for an "available" market. For many, this change will not occur without access to a considerable quantity of credit.

4. *Technological changes in farming.* Farming methods do not stand still. Farmers must continually adopt new machines, buildings and other costly production techniques. These continuous changes create a need for a large, additional capital outlay by farmers. Lack of adequate credit is part of the reason that farmers are using "only half of what they know now."

5. *Increase in cash operating outlay.* Many studies indicate that it requires an annual cash outlay of from \$5,000 to \$15,000 to operate the modern, commercial farm business. Much of this outlay for a large number of farmers will have to come via short-term credit channels.

6. *Need for soil conservation.* Frequently, good soil conservation practices mean grassland farming and livestock. This in turn means buildings, machinery and equipment. The basic obstacle to soil conservation farming in many instances is the lack of funds to switch from a soil exploitative to a soil conserving type of production. Here again, credit appears to be the vehicle to effect the change.

## What Determines Successful Use of Credit

Many factors determine whether credit will be used successfully or not. These factors may be listed as follows:

1. Loan as a per cent of the appraised value of the property.
2. Length of repayment schedule.
3. Variable loan repayment schedule.
4. Earning potential of the loan.
5. Security and collateral demanded.
6. Price, yield and income risks.
7. Interest rate.
8. Training of farmers in business methods.
9. Packaged or consolidated farm credit.

(Please turn to page 62)

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR A SOUND CREDIT POLICY FOR CANADIAN FARMERS:

- Supervised credit primarily for beginning farmers and low-income families.
- Debt repayment schedules tied to rises and falls in farm income.

- Improved land appraisal techniques, and education in proper land values.
- Farms financed as a whole unit, in contrast to a piecemeal approach.





● *Despite the absence of modern equipment, this 1,500-hen flock provides net returns sufficient to meet household expenses for a family of eight.*

# Is There a Future for the Farm Laying Flock?

by **DON BARON**

*This poultry enthusiast has proof that his hens are paying their way in a mixed farming operation*

**G**IANT-SIZED poultry flocks have been making headlines in the past few years. Amidst all this talk of specialization and mass production, Ontario poultryman and mixed farmer, George Curtis, refuses to bat an eyelash.

He has laying hens, pigs and beef cattle on his farm at Belwood. It is an old-fashioned combination, he admits, but the way he sees it, a farm flock like his own, fitted into a mixed farming program, has nothing to fear in the way of competition from the big flocks.

His laying flock operation may lack many of the modern conveniences, like forced air ventilation and automatic feeders, that are taken for granted by poultry specialists. It may also require more labor than big poultrymen can justify. Curtis admits himself that even his reason for keeping the flock is old-fashioned—its specific job is to meet household expenses, much as the farm flock of a generation ago was asked to do.

The main difference, of course, is that the costs of shopping in modern stores for a large family run much higher today than they did a generation ago. With six healthy and active youngsters and two adults in the Curtis family to provide for, the flock must meet a lot of household expenses. George Curtis has accurate records to prove that his flock is earning enough to do just that.

**T**HE Curtis flock of 1,500 bred-to-lay hens is housed in the renovated end of an old barn. Since the barn lacks fans for ventilation, a deep litter can't be used. Curtis cleans out the pens every second day, does all the feeding by hand, and his records show that the flock averaged 62 per cent production during the 14 months from October 1956 to December 1957.

He knows it costs him 36½ cents per dozen to produce the eggs. His cost calculations include an

allowance of 80 cents per hour for his labor, but excludes the cost of washing and packing the product. He knows, too, that during the 14-month period he had a return of nearly 39 cents per dozen for the 36,000 dozen eggs that were produced. On this basis he was left with a modest profit.

It wasn't a big profit, but it was earned at a time when egg prices were unusually low. It was also earned without the aid of a special premium market, for, like most poultrymen in Canada, he sells to the local grading station.

When he comes out of the grading station with his egg cheque, you won't find him waving it around in disgust and blaming the operator for stealing his profits either. He'll be heading straight for the grocery store where the cheque will be more than a match for his bill.

**W**HILE the idea is old-fashioned, and the accommodation falls short of being stylish, there is nothing out-of-date about the management that goes into the George Curtis poultry operation. He has an extraordinary skill at making things work.

An army veteran, he made use of his service benefits to get started farming in 1946. Like many returned men he had to make up in hard work for his lack of ready cash. The Veterans' Land Act supervisors helped him with the all-important start. He has been searching out assistance from every possible quarter ever since.

He has been taking advice from the poultry specialists at the Ontario Agricultural College, and he calls the local feed company representative a welcome visitor to the farm, because "he is not a high pressure salesman, but rather a nutrition specialist."

Curtis is an inveterate reader, searching through farm magazines exhaustively for some of his best ideas. Last winter he came upon a story about force-molting of hens to bring them back to high production. When the (Please turn to page 50)

● *It's a family farm, with time for fun. Curtis children and playmates like to skate.*



# EAGLE'S KINGDOM

by **NORAH BURKE**

*An exciting and vividly descriptive story of the desperate, calculating actions of a father eagle seeking food for his young*

*The hare was heavy. He had to work hard to get up into the air, and then he turned for home.*

Illustrated by **CLARENCE TILLENIUS**



**B**ENEATH him, the golden eagle could see the landscape for fifty miles. A damp wind, but silvery with sunlight, was pouring past, and he balanced upon this river of air, almost without movement, in majestic flight.

He was looking for his wife. They were joined in lifelong marriage and she had been missing since yesterday, so his anxiety was now fast mounting to alarm.

A mile below him, he could see their nest on a cliff face, and the two hungry eaglets in it, while all around lay mountains clothed in the close brown and green of barren moorland, and supporting only such creatures as hares and sheep. Up till now, he and his mate had quartered these slopes tirelessly to feed the nestlings on hare and vole and ground birds—anything they could find—but at present she was nowhere to be seen.

He began to climb in effortless spirals even higher, to look further still. Now that the young were getting so big and ravenous, the parent birds had had to extend their range in order to bring home sufficient food, so perhaps she was just further off than usual.

Presently all the country he knew lay spread beneath him in exquisite detail—a physical map of brown hills and green pastures. South, lay many coins of lakes and a town or two. A hundred miles to the north, a flat glitter, seen through gauze, was the sea. No other creature shared this realm with the eagles; the falcons and buzzards had been left far below. Here, in the huge air, detached from earth, and washed by the wind and pale pure sunlight, he was alone. The only sound was what his feathers made. The black primaries were open like fingers and upcurved. He rippled them to the

changing currents, and his tail too, like a fan, as he felt the different pressures of atmosphere.

He was a perfect bird, created a noble hunter. Like Man, made to kill. The giant wings, more than six feet across, that were muscled to get him indefinitely higher into these vast solitudes of sky, were put to the wind so that it supported him in power and stateliness, without effort.

He was brown, he was black, but where the sun hit head and nape, it gave gold. And he was armed. The huge hooked beak and claws were colored like blue lead. There was yellow too at eye and foot and nostril. A lion among birds.

He heeled to the wind, and was carried away over the next range of hills to look at the place where, sometimes, they used another nest. It proved empty and unrepaired as he expected and, naturally, his wife was not to be seen.

**S**O there was nothing for it but to set to work to feed the young by himself. He was a father left alone. Although he had no means of imagining what might have happened to her; and though he, like other animals, did not think ahead but faced each thing as it came, there was this nagging trouble all the time. He felt ill with worry.

Dropping down now through rushing air-oceans, he began to beat the mountain slopes for game in earnest in his usual manner. Often he forgot about his trouble, but every so often it came back on him in a sick wave. She was gone, he was alone, there were two young ones at home to be fed. He was the provider, and they depended now entirely upon him.

For a long time he found nothing because somehow it seemed to be known, below, when he was coming, and the hillsides cleared of game.

Then suddenly he saw a ptarmigan, crouched under inadequate cover. The bird looked flat, as if it had been rolled into the turf, and it was the same color, but his miraculous sight picked it out from its background and, coming in from a low altitude, he closed his wings and fell like a stone. With eyes narrowed against the wind, he swooped at more than a hundred miles an hour.

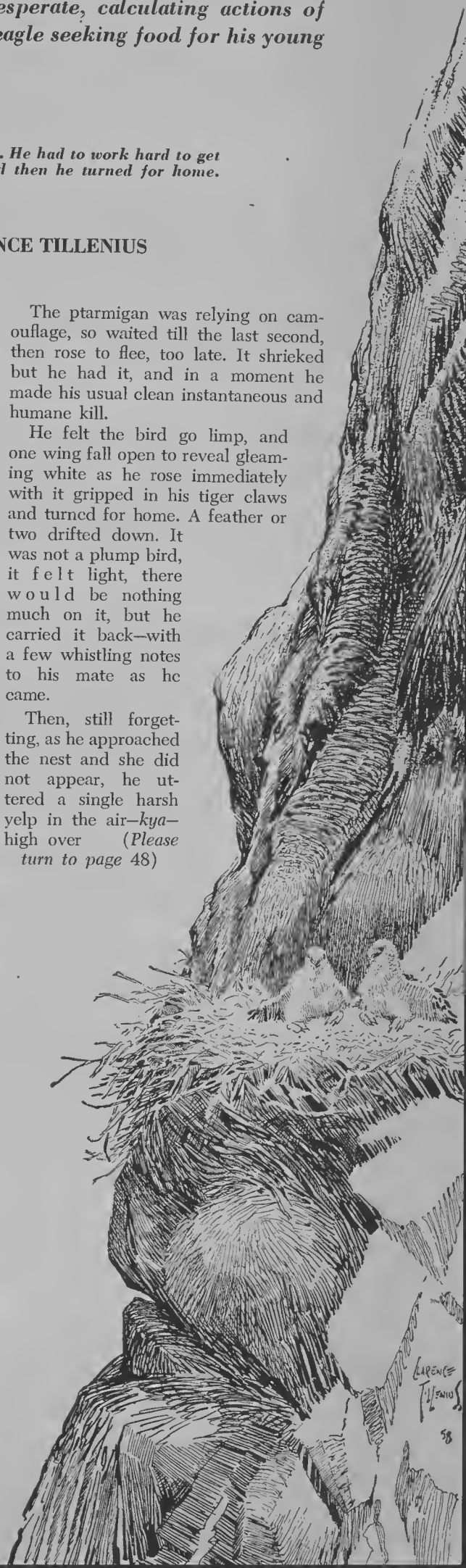
The ptarmigan was relying on camouflage, so waited till the last second, then rose to flee, too late. It shrieked but he had it, and in a moment he made his usual clean instantaneous and humane kill.

He felt the bird go limp, and one wing fall open to reveal gleaming white as he rose immediately with it gripped in his tiger claws and turned for home. A feather or two drifted down. It was not a plump bird, it felt light, there would be nothing much on it, but he carried it back—with a few whistling notes to his mate as he came.

Then, still forgetting, as he approached the nest and she did not appear, he uttered a single harsh yelp in the air—*kya*—high over (Please turn to page 48)



*The first of three wildlife stories to be featured in The Country Guide during 1958, by this distinguished British writer.*







*"The colt thundered past Cal, clearing the rail by inches . . ."*

# Wildfire

by **CLAIRE SHULER McKINNON**

Illustrated by **CLARENCE TILLENIOUS**

**T**HE colt stood his ground, head up, nostrils flaring. Cal stopped a moment, admiring the proud head, the sleek, sorrel coat, the flowing mane and tail.

"You're a pretty one, you are, but wild as prairie fire. Seems a shame to put a halter on you." He started forward again, hand outstretched, perhaps his voice would calm the colt. "I'd hate to throw a rope on you, fellow . . . easy, now, easy does it. I won't hurt you."

Another step, and another. The colt stood, waiting, ears forward, watchful, poised for flight.

"I've never seen a handsomer colt. You're a nice boy . . . now . . . take it easy . . . easy . . ."

Almost his hand touched the colt's nose—almost, but not quite.

Even as Cal felt the colt's breath on his hand the spell was broken. The sorrel reared up and wheeled, leaping away to run to the other side of the corral.

Only for a minute he paused, the rails were high. He turned and thundered past Cal, his flying hoofs spurning the dust behind him. Gracefully he leaped the corral gate, almost soaring, clearing the rail by inches to land, still running, heading for the pasture.

"Well, I'm darned!" Cal scratched his grizzled head, his hat pushed back, while his eyes followed the colt, the magnificent mane and tail flying, the clean limbs running easily, lightly. "Only a yearling—a fence jumper! That's quite a fence, I'd never have believed it!"

He lay his hand on the topmost rail, speculatively. "I'm darned!" he repeated. "I'm double darned!"

**T**HE work horses still grazed in the pasture—too soon yet to get them in for spring work, of course, but he liked to get the colts halter-broken the first year. Time enough later to break them to the plow. But who'd have thought a work mare like Nellie would get a colt like the sorrel yearling.

"Must be a throw back. Nothing like that around here before . . . the clean, fine lines of him. He stood there almost like a king, and the way he cleared that fence! I never saw the beat of it."

"Dane's been talking about the colt, said he had the making of a good horse, wants him for a saddle horse—but I can't have a fence jumper on the place. I'll tame him down a little and sell him, and that'll be it."

Cal looked at the rails of the corral again. "Have to put another rail on top. Dane can help me when he comes from school, then we'll run that wildfire colt in again and show him who's boss. I'll waste no more time on him, even if I break him!"

Martha turned from the stove as he clumped into the kitchen, her face flushed. She brushed a stray hair back from her forehead with the back of her hand, and smiled:

"How did the sorrel colt behave, Dad? I declare, Dane sets such store by that horse you'd think he was an Arabian stallion, and Dane the sheik himself." Her eyes brightened. "He is a pretty thing though."

"Well, Martha," Cal's voice was muffled as he sloshed water on his face and reached blindly for the towel. "Well, Martha, I don't know. I'm afraid that colt is too much horse for this outfit! We need something to pull a plow, the mower, and that one's wildfire! I'll never break *him* to harness."

"Then let Dane have him, Dad!" Martha clasped her hands over the dishtowel she held. "He wants a good horse. Blackie was all right when he was younger, but a 13-year-old boy needs something better than Blackie."

**I** DON'T know about that, Martha." Cal scraped his chair up to the table and reached for the potatoes. "Old Blackie is pretty dependable. We can use him for anything. The colt would be dead-wood, can't afford to feed a saddle horse." Cal spooned out the potatoes and pushed the dish aside. Through the kitchen window he could see the pasture and the horses grazing. The sorrel colt, still free and untamed, cavorted about with the other yearlings.

"No, I'm afraid he'll have to go, soon as I can break him so he'll bring a little cash. He's pretty enough, but he's not for the likes of us!"

"But Dad!" Martha's face fell. "You know how Dane is about that colt, it'll break his heart. He dreams

great dreams of riding tall and proud on his own horse! The sorrel colt sure fits his dreams."

"We've no room for dreams around here, Martha. Farming is serious business. There's no dream in plowing, and seeding and harvest . . . it's work, hard work!"

"Dad, you're wrong," Martha protested. "Farming is a dream, a hope. Without the dream there would be no point in even planting the seed. You need dreams, Dad, and faith. It was a dream that brought us here to build this farm, you can't deny it Dad."

"That's different, Martha, it's not the same thing at all!" Cal raised his eyes to hers. "I'm not denying we put a lot of hope into this place along with the work, but a saddle horse! There's no money in that! It will eat its head off! No, the colt will have to go, Martha, that's final."

Martha pushed back her plate and went to the window. She stood for a long time looking toward the pasture. When she turned, her eyes were misty.

"You'll have to tell him, Dad. Don't forget that!"

"That's all right, Martha, there's no hurry. I still have to break him in, I can't get anything for a raw colt."

**D**ANE'S bare heels drummed a desultory rhythm against Blackie's barrel sides. Sway-backed and potbellied, Blackie had long ago forgotten any hope of speed, if he had ever known any to begin with. Although he was retired from the field he still came in handy for a school horse, to cultivate the garden, or even for a day or two in the field at harvest.

Now and then he broke into a half-hearted gallop under Dane's prodding—a clumsy, lumbering gait that soon subsided into a ragged jogging that seemed about to rattle Dane's teeth from his head. It made it a bit difficult to whistle, but Dane managed a series of tuneless notes, at times, to imitate the prairie meadow-lark or the shrill chirrup of a gopher.

At the pasture gate Dane leaned over to (Please turn to page 54)





# EASING the LIVESTOCK LOAD

by J. A. PECK

*Power, gravity, careful placing of materials, and even livestock themselves, can simplify the chores*



**Mechanized Barn Cleaner**

**D**URING the past few years, farm mechanization has progressed at an unprecedented pace. It is evident, however, that mechanization for the production of livestock has not kept pace with the mechanization which we now enjoy in the production of field crops.

Farm buildings are the processing plants where raw materials of feed grain and hay are converted to meat, dairy and poultry products, but we find that this conversion process is very inefficient compared to the mechanization of field work. Today, no farmer would consider doing the work involved in planting, tending or harvesting crops by hand. Yet in the farmyard, we often handle materials just like grandfather did, content to go along with inefficient, time-consuming methods. The need for mechanization in the farmyard is obvious.

We might consider first what it will cost—anywhere from nothing up to thousands of dollars. We may simply want to use some of the ideas for making our work easier, with no cost whatsoever, or we may want to build an automatic feed handling system which might cost \$10,000.

For instance, it costs little to do such things as:

1. Move feed bunks closer to hay or grain. (The cattle can walk to the bunk easier than you can carry feed across the feedlot.)
2. Replace gates with cattle guards and avoid opening gates several times daily.

These ideas cost so little you can't afford not to use them.

**W**HEN we turn to the more expensive ideas we need to consider the next question. Can you afford it?

You'll want to consider first how many bushels or animals you handle. If you feed 500 steers a year, you can justify quite an elaborate system. You can't justify spending much money to simply caring for five milk cows.

Second, you must consider how much help you have. If you can handle all the work with the labor you have available now, you are not interested in spending much money. If you don't have enough help, you can justify spending money to enable you to do more with your own time. If you simply sleep in later in the morning, you have to figure what that extra sleep is costing you. What you do with the time saved through mechanization is important.

You can lower your cost by buying some pieces of equipment jointly with your neighbors, or by hiring a custom operator to do jobs with machines

you may not be able to buy right now, such as for forage harvesting. By making one machine do several jobs and thus spreading its cost, like using a forage harvester for chopping hay, silage or straw, the capital cost for each job is reduced.

You have to make your investment in better equipment and buildings pay back the money you put into them plus some. If it simply pays off and no more, or simply makes life easier for you, you can't afford it.

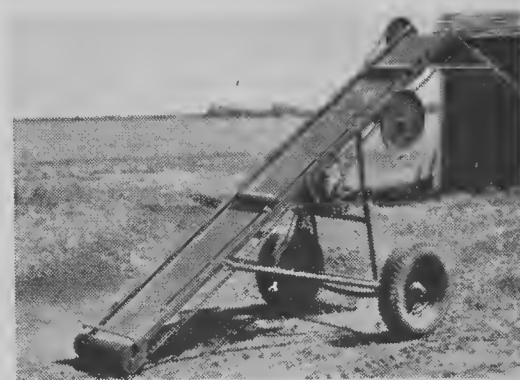
Let's for a moment discuss the most important phase of livestock mechanization, or that phase which is most laborious, that of "materials handling." U.S.D.A. figures indicate that 220 tons of materials must be handled annually for every 10 head of cattle, either dairy or beef. This includes the handling of hay, grain, straw, silage, water and manure. Hay, grain and straw must first be brought from the field and (Please turn to page 46)



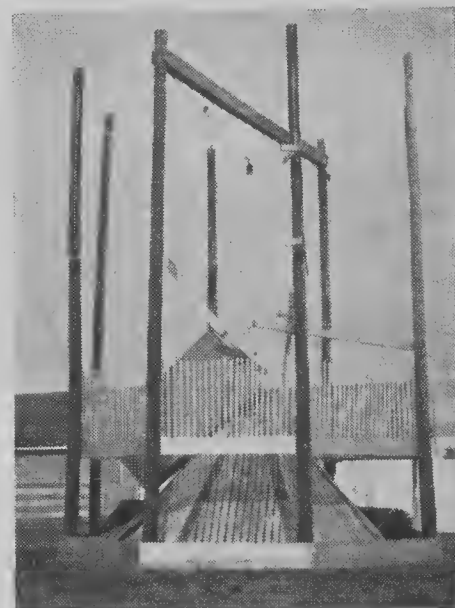
**Feed Blower for Poultry**



**Tractor Front-End Loader**



**Sacked Grain Loader**



**Cut Hay Self-Feeder**



**Feeding Gate in Silo Makes Livestock Do Some Work**



**Self-Feeder for Grain**

[Sask. Govt. photo]

# HALFWAY HOUSE

*... was first of a number of ingenious ideas put to use on this farmstead site to take advantage of a natural slope*

By **CLIFF FAULKNER**



Aerial view of farm showing location of house, "Halfway House" and elevator-barn unit. New barn has now been built in excavation at right, and the livestock shed in center has been demolished.

OUR early settlers knew how to take advantage of natural land features to save labor and time. A home built in the lee of a poplar bluff or hill took less fuel to heat than one built in the open; if the place was built close to water and fuel, hauling was quicker and easier. Even in this day of automatic furnaces and farm electric power, it's still better to work with nature than to oppose it—especially when applied to a natural force such as gravity.

That's what Geron Wohlberg had in mind when he laid out his farm buildings against a rise of land located behind his house.

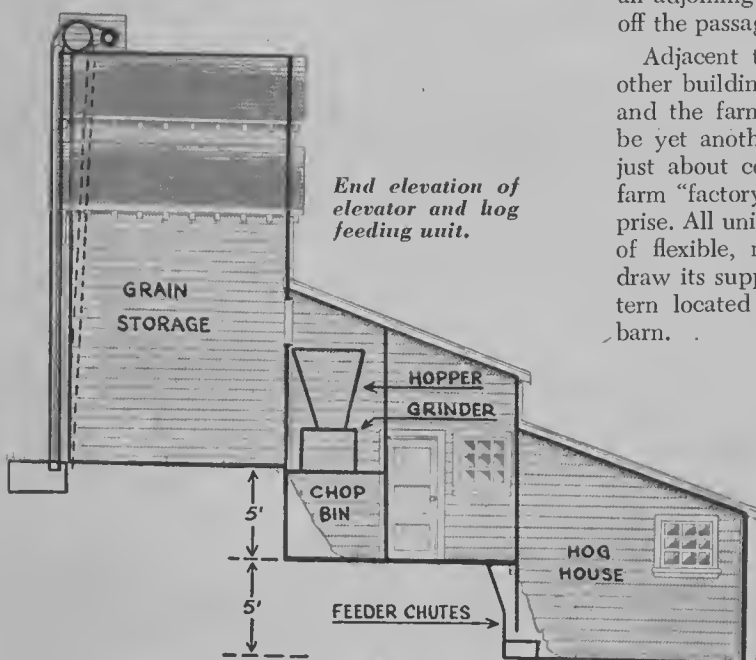
At the top of the hill, Geron erected a 4-bin grain elevator to store both feed and seed. Loaded trucks (from the field combines) drive right up to the base of this elevator and dump their grain into an unloading pit. Regular power-driven conveyor

buckets raise it to the top of the structure, but from there on it moves pretty much by gravity, whether it's headed for a seed bag, or the stomachs of the farm livestock.

The elevator is the central unit of a series of connected buildings located below it on the slope. Feed grain from the storage bins flows through a hopper and grinder and emerges into a chop bin in the feed room about 5 feet below. From here it can be shovelled through slots in the floor to the hog house, which, in turn, is located at another level, about 5 feet lower down, or it can be trucked out to feed other livestock on the farm.

To the right of this 3-unit structure a concrete-walled passageway curves down (another 5-foot drop) to dairy barn. This 30' by 66' unit features an enclosed manure pit at the far end, to be serviced by two conveyor-belt barn cleaners which will operate in the gutters behind the stalls, and an adjoining milking parlor and root cellar located off the passageway that leads to the feed room.

Adjacent to the barn, the Wohlbergs plan another building to contain their hog farrowing pens, and the farm poultry flock. This unit, which will be yet another 5 feet lower down the slope, will just about complete their plans for an integrated farm "factory" to house their seed-dairy-hog enterprise. All units will be connected by a water system of flexible, non-corrosive plastic pipe which will draw its supply from an underground concrete cistern located between the elevator and the dairy barn.



End elevation of elevator and hog feeding unit.

Front elevation of "Halfway House." Dimension: 22' x 40'.

- AREA A STORE ROOM
- " B LIVING QUARTERS
- " C CARPENTER SHOP
- " D GARAGE
- " E MACHINE SHOP
- " F BLACKSMITH AND REPAIR SHOP



"As a matter of fact, you called on us a year or so too soon," Geron told The Country Guide. "We've had these buildings planned for a long time, but haven't been able to get going on them until now. Something always seemed to come up that had to be done, and we were forced to put our plans aside."

GERON WOHLBERG came to Canada from Sweden with his father and mother in 1905, and they settled on a farm north of Spicers, Sask., about 2 miles east of his present place. He was only 2 years old at the time (his brothers and sisters are all Canadian born), so his experience of farming conditions in northwestern Saskatchewan isn't something he picked up overnight. His technical knowledge was obtained from an agricultural course held at the University of Saskatchewan, which he completed in 1925.

In 1929, Geron got married, and he and his wife moved to their present home the following spring. There was a good house on the farm, and an old barn, which they intended to replace with a new structure as soon as they got properly settled down. But, as things turned out the Wohlbergs were forced to postpone the idea of a new barn in favor of projects which would ensure that their land would produce a steady succession of good crops.

For one thing, there were no trees on the farm when they took it over, so the Wohlbergs decided their first job was to plant a shelterbelt around the farmstead. Then they added protective strips of trees along the borders of adjacent fields to guard their topsoil. The next step was to prepare for a supply of water for the dry years that were certain to come along. An earthen dam was built across a gully north of the house to catch spring runoff, and later, with the help of one of his neighbors, Geron built a dugout with a water storage capacity of 4½ acre-feet.

"That gave us a total storage of about 8 acre-feet," said Geron, "and it sure paid off during the drought of the 1930's. On some Sundays we'd have as many as 10 neighbors' teams lined up waiting to get water so their wives could do the Monday wash."

Even with their land and water supply secure, the Wohlbergs saw hope of a new barn getting dimmer and dimmer. Those were the 10 lean, depression years before World War II when wheat sold for 19 cents a bushel, oats brought about 7 cents, and beef on the hoof sold for as low as a cent a pound. As Geron puts it, "a few years of prices like that and we ended up further in debt than when we started."

ONE building the Wohlbergs did manage to put up is a unique structure they call "Halfway House"—named because of its location, midway between house and barn. This is a 2-storey, 6-room affair, which has served as a sort of recreation center for the five

(Please turn to page 60)



# King of

Story by JANET SAYLOR



Pictures by JEAN MERRILL

# Queens

*On Pelee Island, A. C. Agnew carries out a program of queen bee improvement which is unique in Canada*

**D**URING the past few years, a decrease in suitable honey plants to make way for more cash crops has been making things difficult for beekeepers and others directly dependent on bees. Many fruit farmers in the Niagara district of Ontario, for example, are now paying beekeepers to place colonies of bees in their orchards to pollinate the crop.

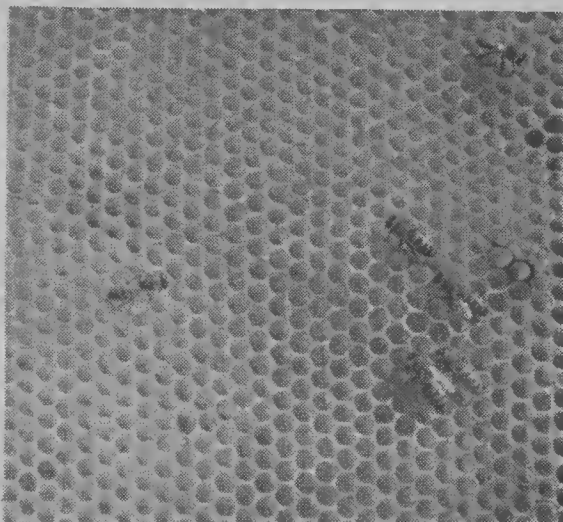
Worried over honey crop failures, and lower honey production, the Province of Ontario in 1947 enlisted the help of the Canada and U.S. departments of agriculture in a program for queen bee improvement. It was necessary to find an agricultural site where bees could be isolated from other breeds. Pelee Island, in the middle of Lake Erie, was chosen.

Queen bees are imported from the University of Wisconsin, where researchers collect bees from all over North America. The best of these are crossed by artificial insemination to produce breeder queens at the university. They also ship the hybrid queen to Ontario Agricultural College, where sufficient queens are bred to produce drone stock for Pelee Island. This ensures that the queens are not mated to any of the breeder lines on the island. In this way, they are able to control the drone line.

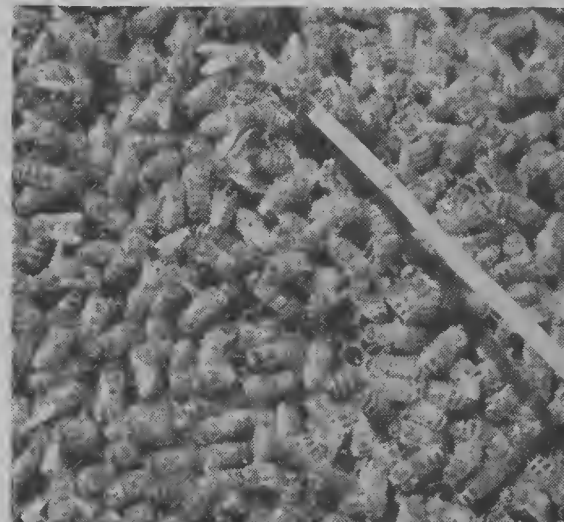
A. C. Agnew, resident operator of the Pelee queen bee breeding station, produces sufficient queens for testing at the Dominion Experimental Farms, O.A.C. and Madison, Wis. Last year, he received eight different crosses and strains from Wisconsin, and shipped out 2,000 queen bees. ✓



Mr. Agnew showing a visiting researcher a Pelee Island bee yard. It is the only place in Canada carrying out this type of queen bee improvement.



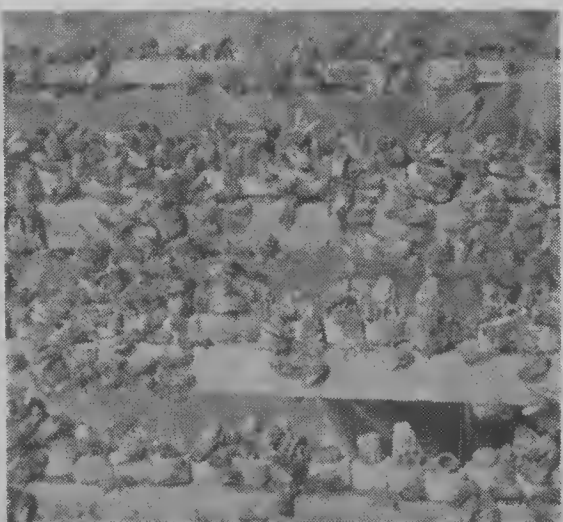
Worker bees prepare cells. Queen bees from Wisconsin are placed one each in a queenless hive to lay an egg in each cell and get acclimatized.



A Wisconsin queen bee perches on a pointer. Unlike workers, she has brighter colors, a much longer body, and lives from three to four years.



When eggs hatch into larvae, they are lifted on a fine wire and placed in wax cups on the brood frame, and left in queenless hives for nine days.



The individual cups are moved to separate hives, royal nymphs emerge, and in about five to eight days quit their lives as virgin queens to mate.



When each young queen has laid some eggs, she is marked to identify her strain, and is ready for shipping in a box with eight workers, plus food.



# ONE-SHOT TREATMENT PREVENTS PIG ANEMIA\*

*Discovery in human medicine made three years ago  
now can increase hog-raising profits by 20%*

## A MAJOR DISCOVERY

After years of painstaking research to find a better treatment for iron deficiency in man, scientists in Great Britain three years ago developed IMFERON, the only effective iron preparation in the world that can be given safely and simply by intramuscular injection. Today, IMFERON has become routine treatment for iron deficiency throughout the world.

## REVOLUTIONIZES HOG RAISING

From this success in the human field scientists and veterinarians developed IMFERON (Veterinary) as the answer to pig anemia. Baby pigs are born with practically no iron stores. The fast-growing baby pig needs more and more iron each day. Without the iron required to keep pace with its rapid growth, the baby pig becomes anemic. Scientists, investigating pig anemia, state that 90% of baby pigs reared intensively become anemic during the first critical seven days after farrowing. Lacking the resistance that a proper

supply of iron provides, the baby pigs are most susceptible to killing infections such as scours and pneumonia. These diseases cost farmers, directly and indirectly many hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

## *Raise Disease Resistance and Make Every Pig Pay*

Some farmers depend on baby pigs picking up iron by rooting in sods. The usual treatment has been to give baby pigs reduced iron or ferrous sulphate two or three times by mouth in their first week or ten days. The dosage by these methods is neither certain nor sure. Extensive field experience has proved that just one injection of IMFERON (Veterinary) given, if possible, three days after farrowing provides ALL THE IRON the baby pig needs to ward off anemia and withstand infection. Later treatment is also effective. It's easy, quick and the correct dosage is assured.

## AND THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY

Anemia retards growth. The baby pig with anemia just does not stand the same chance, for gains. Numerous tests prove that baby pigs treated with IMFERON (Veterinary) gain weight more rapidly than their untreated litter mates.

\*Iron deficiency anemia

## WHO BINGER IS

Binger Laboratories Ltd., with extensive research and manufacturing facilities at Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, has been established in England since 1891.

# Imferon

iron-dextran complex Trade Mark

## VETERINARY

**BINGER**

**TREATED  
PIGS  
25%  
heavier  
at  
weaning**

Binger Researchers, world famous for notable contributions to medicine, believe that IMFERON (Veterinary) may prove to be the most significant advance since intensive hog-raising began. That's because IMFERON (Veterinary) treated pigs are 25% heavier at weaning . . . make faster gains on less feed and reach market weight earlier.

Remember every pig kept in good health by a few cents spent on IMFERON (Veterinary) injection can put extra dollars in your pocket. (As much as \$12.00 at present hog prices.)

Get IMFERON (Veterinary) from your veterinarian or drug store.

A ten dose rubber-capped vial (20 c.c.) costs \$4.00.

NOTE: Hog raisers should make sure that the injection is given in the buttock, to a depth of at least ½".

# Can Pigs Be Mass-Produced?

*This farm plans to produce 3,000 pigs per year. If the idea spreads, the small farm swine herd will be greatly affected*

by DON BARON



[Guide photos]  
Here are 29 healthy pigs nursing in two litters. Sows are in farrowing pens, crushing of young pigs is almost eliminated.

CAN pigs be produced by the thousands in centralized, hatchery-like operations? At Hyland Farms, in cash-cropping southern Ontario, a determined effort is being made to do just that. If the attempt is successful, it will probably signal the beginning of an important change in Canada's hog industry.

Development of the program at Hyland Farms has involved a whole new look at swine-raising practices. It required a vigorous search for information both in Canada and the United States.

Responsible for it is the manager of this big farming operation, who is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and who has studied business administration at the University of Western Ontario.

Some of his ideas are new and some are revolutionary by traditional standards. If they are successful, and already they have yielded some remarkable results, he will be farrowing 30 sows every month of the year and averaging 8 pigs or more per litter. His total production will be nearly 3,000 pigs per year.

Several dozen litters have now been weaned under the new program, and here are a few early results: losses from crushing have been negligible in the new farrowing house; the average of pigs raised per litter is well over eight, and their health has been excellent.

The key to any sound swine program, according to this enthusiast, is

to keep the animals dry. Hog buildings on the 1,000-acre farm (where both swine and beef enterprises are being built so the crops can be turned into meat) have been designed with this idea foremost. The farrowing house, a 30' by 60' structure, is an old concrete building that was remodelled for the purpose. New 4" concrete walls were built inside, separated from the old 9" walls by a 3" insulated space.

Windows are double glazed and sealed in place to block out drafts. The insulated floor he built has been especially satisfactory, for it remains dry and warm, despite the lack of any stove heat in the farrowing house.

Here is how he laid it. A plastic lining was set on the ground to provide a moisture seal. This was covered with a 1" mat of fiberglass, and a 2" layer of concrete, which was topped with a 2" layer of hard concrete, and finally surfaced with a water-repellent masonry compound.

A fan, thermostatically controlled, maintains the temperature of the building at a cool, dry and comfortable 50°. Heat lamps provide additional heat for each litter. Otherwise, no supplementary heat is required.

THE farrowing house is fully occupied by 3 rows of 10 pens each, which are really just farrowing crates installed as permanent pens. Sows are brought into pens a couple of days before they are expected to farrow, to become accustomed to the new sur-

roundings. Each pen is 7' long and 22" wide so the sow can do little more than stand quietly or lie down and sleep. On either side, are bays 18" wide for the young pigs. Twice a day, the sows are turned outside to be self-fed on a wind-sheltered and roofed concrete platform.

Once he brings the program into full swing, this innovating manager expects it will be possible to have 30 sows bred in a 10-day or 2-week period of any month. These will then farrow together, and nurse their litters for about 10 days in the farrowing house. Then they can be removed to other buildings, and the house completely cleaned and disinfected in preparation for the next group of 30 sows the following month.

OVERFAT, or big and clumsy sows present a problem on many hog farms and they usually must be shipped before their time. This problem is getting some attention at Hyland Farms, too.

The program there has been designed for economy of labor, and this calls for self-feeding all of the pigs. However, economical rations designed for swine men, who hand-feed their pigs, have caused the sows to get overly fat when self-fed on this farm.

To overcome this, dry sows are fed a ration that is high in alfalfa, to keep them lean and extend their useful life.

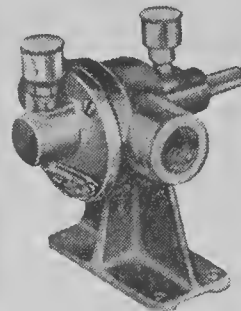
Dry sows run in a yard outside, and sleep in an airy shelter with a concrete insulated floor like that in the farrowing pen. Very little bedding is required.

One man can care for all of the sows and the litters that make up this big operation, but once the young pigs are weaned, they are moved to a separate set of buildings to be fed off to market under the care of another man.

The implications of this ambitious swine program are far-reaching, for with big pig feeding establishments springing up frequently now, an immense demand for weaner pigs is being created. If these pigs can be produced in volume at a few individual plants, the subsequent effect on the small farm swine herd may be great.

## PUMPS- FOR YOUR FARM

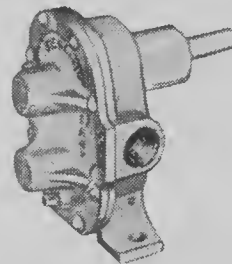
**HYPRO Flex ROTOR**  
(Rubber Impellor)  
**and Flex ROLLER**  
(Rubber Roller)



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Now, for the first time, you can give your pigs *continuous* protection against costly damage from swine worms—from the time pigs first begin to eat feed, right on through the critical period.

A new antibiotic feed additive, 'Hygromix,' comes mixed into pre-starter, starter, grower, or supplement to be mixed with grain. When these feeds containing 'Hygromix' are fed in the usual manner, they provide a more complete control of the worm problem than ever before possible.

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#### Under the Peace Tower

## Conservative Government Farm Legislative Program

*Minister of Agriculture Harkness elaborates on his party's plans for the first session of the new Parliament*

by RALPH HEDLIN

**W**ITH the election now over Canadian farmers are in a position to assess what their ballots have accomplished in terms of farm policy. Prior to March 31 there was a possibility of alternative policies: The majority marked their ballots in favor of the Progressive Conservative alternative.

"At the first session of Parliament we will be introducing legislation to put into effect improved credit facilities for farmers," said Mr. Harkness. "If we do not have a crop insurance plan worked out by the time of the next harvest, we will try to design changes in the Prairie Farm Assistance Act to remove some of the more glaring inequities. And, of course, as you know, I regard a national land use and soil and water conservation program as being of the first order of importance."

Mr. Harkness frequently did not elaborate the details of his credit plan during the hurly-burly of the campaign. But, as this reporter's interview revealed, the plan is crisp nonetheless. The proposed legislation will set up a 4-pronged credit agency, dealing with 4 distinct and separate credit needs in the farming community.

**L**ONG-TERM credit will be extended to young people who wish to begin farming, but who lack the necessary capital. This aspect of the program will be modelled on the Veteran's Land Act experience, and the young farmers who take advantage of it will receive the type of supervision that veterans have received: it will be available but it will not be mandatory.

Long-term credit will also be available for established farmers, primarily to help them to finance the enlargement of their farms to economic sized units, to construct modern homes, to build drainage or irrigation works, or for any one of a number of productive purposes for which long-term credit might be required.

Intermediate credit will also be brought under this agency—credit for buying machinery and for other investments in farm improvement that do not require long-term loans. In effect, this aspect of the new legislation will take over the credit function now performed by the Farm Improvement Loans Act.

Short-term credit will be the fourth prong in the credit program. This will be designed to help farmers who wish, for example, to buy feeder cattle and carry them over a feeding period of some months, and who find themselves unable to get the needed credit.

As might be expected, this new credit agency will absorb both the Canadian Farm Loan Board and the



The Hon. Douglas S. Harkness

Farm Improvement Loans Act. Further, where these two Acts have previously been administered by the Department of Finance, the new legislation will set up the credit agency within the Department of Agriculture, and will try to relate the program as much to the real needs of the agricultural industry, as to the preventing of all possible cash losses. Obviously, farmers will expect to have to repay their loans, but the judgment as to whether a farmer deserves a loan and can handle the repayment will be made by men who understand farming, rather than by men who only understand finance.

**T**HE details of the crop insurance proposals have not yet been made public and, indeed, there is some doubt if a detailed plan is yet devised. But this much is clear—the new Federal Government does not propose to spread a comprehensive federal crop insurance program over the nation. They will design a number of alternative plans and these will be offered individually to the provinces. If the province in question likes the look of a plan it can accept it, set it up, administer it, and be assured of Federal support.

"It is possible that a different scheme will be offered to every province," commented Mr. Harkness. "A good plan for Saskatchewan might be quite worthless for Nova Scotia. Indeed, agriculture in each province has its own special needs, and the proposals will have to consider the conditions in each province."

The Minister went on to say that he favored the integration of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act into his crop insurance plans. "PFAA was designed as a system of drought relief and not designed for general crop losses," he said.

**T**HE Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, like the Maritime Marshland Reclamation authority, will lose its separate identity. Both will become



part of a nation-wide soil and water and land use authority. "Perhaps this is the most important of all matters requiring attention by the Department of Agriculture," suggested Mr. Harkness. "Its importance to our farmers is obvious. But, further, if this country is to be as populous as we have every right to expect, the conservation of our soil resources may be vital if, over the very long run, we are to continue to feed ourselves. The loss of soil and soil fertility in Canada has already been serious and severe."

The details of the conservation authority remain to be worked out. But one immense project will be facing it as soon as it is formed. "We expect to start on the South Saskatchewan River dam shortly," Mr. Harkness told this reporter. And Prime Minister Diefenbaker has revealed that arrangements with the Government of Saskatchewan are virtually complete, and confirms that a start will soon be made on the harnessing of the irrigation and power potential of the South Saskatchewan.

THE much-discussed and much-debated Agricultural Stabilization Act will, under the new Government, be continued and thoroughly tested. "We expect to be making much more

use of deficiency payments as a means of underpinning the farm industry. If necessary, we will use the entire \$250 million authorized under the Act to protect farm income," said Mr. Harkness.

A number of policies that either are not new or have a smaller total impact will be continued or introduced. The Price Spreads Commission will report and some legislation may be necessary with respect to the farm price of food products, and the prices paid by final consumers. Cash advances will be continued. Import controls will be used to protect farm markets from "unfair" competition from abroad. Attempts to market surplus farm products will be intensified, and it is assumed that new efforts will be made to move additional food supplies to needy people.

The proposals of the recently elected Government include a number of new concepts and philosophies of farm policy. The price supports legislation, and the credit, conservation and crop insurance proposals are more or less new departures.

The conversion of the paper plans into operating policies will be watched with critical interest by the farmers of Canada.



## Rural Route Letter

Hi Folks:

That neighbor of mine, Ted Corbett, was over again this morning just about coffee time. He's got it figured pretty close now, and generally lands up when Sara's getting ready to pour. This time Ted was looking very smug about something—just like the cat that's swallowed the vacuum-packed, eviscerated, ready-to-eat canary, or whatever form canaries come in nowadays. I just went on stirring my java, knowing he'd let me in on the news when he got good and ready.

"Sure made a smart deal for myself yesterday," he said, almost smacking his lips at the thought of it, "got a contract with a greenhouse man to take all the manure I can produce—and he's going to do all the loading and hauling. I'll be having my place cleaned out and getting paid for it at the same time—what do you think of a deal like that now?"

I don't like to spoil a fellow's fun when he's all hepped up about something, well not much anyway. I just told Ted I'd try not to think of it at all, and he'd better do the same.

"What do you mean by that?" he wanted to know.

Well Ted, I told him, selling your manure off the farm is just about as bright a trick as selling your topsoil. In the long run it would probably add up to the same thing—no farm.

I took a book down off the shelf and showed him some facts and figures. For instance, I pointed out, suppose you took a ton of red clover hay off your place and sold it, your land would lose about 42 lb. of nitrogen, 10 lb. of phosphorus, 40 lb. of potash, 25 lb. of lime, and a few other things. Naturally, if you did that for a few years without putting anything back, your land would soon be pooped out. On the other hand, if you fed that ton of hay to your cows, over 75 per cent of that stuff would go into their manure and you'd get a chance to put it back on your fields. Unless, of course, you were dumb enough to sell it off the farm.

What're you going to do with the money you'll make, Ted? Send it in to the Co-op as down payment on the fertilizer you'll soon be needing?

Ted wasn't looking quite so smug when he'd chewed that one over for awhile.

Yours,

PETE WILLIAMS.

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## Outlook for Beef Cattle Prices In the U.S.A.

**B**ECAUSE the Canadian beef market is so closely geared to the cattle situation in the United States, every farmer or rancher with beef animals to sell likes to keep a weather eye on what's happening across the border. Speaking recently to the Calgary branch of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, Rex R. Bailey, president of Doane Agricultural Services, Inc., summarized the American beef cattle price outlook as follows:

- 1958 is likely to be a good year for the cattlemen, but there is likely to be a slackening in the feeder market during the next 2 months due to heavier supplies.

- U.S. cattle numbers for 1958 will be down roughly 1 million head from those of 1957.

- Prices will likely average from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per hundred higher for most cattle.

- Cow-calf, cow-yearling, and steer programs appear to be on safe ground.

- Some feeder programs show promise of profit, but there is a need to be careful about prices in purchasing feeders during this year.

- Given adequate moisture conditions in the United States, a satisfactory earning period for the cattle industry as a whole is expected through 1960.

"Since 1949, the cattle population trend was up for 7 years," Mr. Bailey explained, "with numbers topping out around Jan. 1, 1956. But inventories just released by the U.S. government indicate a 1 per cent shrink in numbers for Jan. 1, 1957—or down to 93,967,000 head. Francis Kutish of Iowa State College is predicting that cattle numbers will be down again in 1959, but may stabilize by Jan. 1, 1960. Our estimate (Doane's) is that it may be Jan. 1, 1961, before numbers again show an increase. These figures include milk cows, which produce about 40 per cent of our beef."

Turning to the feeder cattle situation, Bailey predicted that market volume may well continue somewhat lower for the next 3 or 4 years because more heifers are being held back for breeding purposes. However, while total numbers on feed are down about 3 per cent, most of the decrease is in the 13 western states (down 13 per cent), and most of the decline in feeders occurred in larger cattle of the 900-1,100 pound range. Actually, there has been a slight gain in numbers of the 600-900 pound class, and an increase of 1 per cent of all classes in the Corn Belt states.

"We look for the fat cattle market to drop off during the next 2 months due to heavier supplies, and then to show a partial recovery this fall," Mr. Bailey predicted.



Rex R. Bailey.

As far as consumption of other meats is concerned, cattle and all red meats face more competition from poultry and turkeys, he warned. Hogs will offer more competition for a few years, but it may be a long time before the peak in hog and cattle numbers occurs in the same year as they did in 1956.

Encouraging factors are the steady upsurge in population, which creates a widening market, and the trend toward a higher per capita meat consumption. Cattle are the most favored of all livestock programs, showing an increase in price of 31 per cent in 1957 over that of 1956. Beef prices will probably rise 1½¢ to 2½¢ this year, and continue favorably through 1960 or 1961. Feeder and stocker prices are relatively high, and those

who feed should be careful in their buying this fall. The livestock man could improve his position a good deal by increasing the production per man-hour. There has only been a 25 per cent increase in the per man-hour production of meat animals as compared to a 349 per cent increase for grain.

The March 8 edition of "The Iowa Farm Outlook Letter" tends to back up the short-term Doane forecast for the U.S. feeder market. Because more cattle were shipped into the main feeding states last fall than a year ago, and fewer had been marketed up until early last month, the letter predicts that these cattle will start coming back sometime this spring. When that happened, the price of fed cattle would come down.

How could this affect the Canadian market? These fat cattle from the Corn Belt just might move into Ontario, causing a temporary surplus of beef supplies there during the late spring or early summer. However, this condition isn't expected to last very long because of the shortage of replacement cattle in both the U.S. and Canadian West.

As soon as these Corn Belt feedlots are cleared, the demand from the U.S. Atlantic seaboard is expected to absorb all the fat cattle from the Corn Belt for the next 2 to 3 years.—C.V.F. v

## Screenings Put Meat On These Feedlot Lambs



[Guide photos

Screenings are augered into wooden tub. Craig scoops them into feeders.

**F**OR the past 20 years—ever since they discovered that lambs could turn waste screenings from their seed cleaning plant into saleable meat—Craig Schwyer and his dad have been moving western lambs to Ontario each fall for winter feeding.

They have expanded their enterprise at the crossroads village of Nelles Corners, and now they feed over 1,000 lambs a year, and buy a big proportion of the screenings that are required. They have built up a low-cost feedlot that calls for very little labor, and at a time when sheep have been consistently giving way to beef cattle on most farms, they have stayed with lambs because the lambs have paid their way.

Screenings, which represent cheap feed by any standard, must be given



Craig Schwyer runs an expert's eye over the 1,000 lambs in his feedlot. Hanging troughs in the shed at rear are used for screenings twice daily.

## LIVESTOCK

much of the credit for the development of this feedlot, but an ingenious system of handling the lambs has played a big part too.

An old set of farm buildings has been adapted to accommodate the lambs. The old barn was gutted, and one wall torn out to provide open-type shelter. A well was dug in the barn, a pump installed and a small water trough set alongside. A float-valve switch automatically turns the pump on and off, providing fresh water at all times.

The Schweyers built lay mangers in the yard, and then last year, Craig gave his imagination free rein to devise a system to eliminate the need for a separate grain-feeding area.

He suspended the long wooden V-feeders by ropes, which lead up through overhead pulleys and along to the end of the barn where they are attached to a windlass. Once the lambs have cleaned up their grain, the troughs can be raised into the air by a few turns of the handle, leaving the lambs complete freedom of the barn floor.

Screenings are augered from an adjoining granary into a wooden tub located in the barn. At feeding time, morning and evening, they are scooped from the tub with a pail, and dumped into the hanging feeders. Then the feeders are lowered to the ground for the waiting lambs. Under this system, one area serves the pur-

poses requiring two in most lamb feedlots.

Most years, the Schweyers buy five carlots of lambs, but they have now cut back to three, because a poor beef market in late summer made it impractical for them to sell the steers to make room for the regular shipment of lambs.

For their records, the Schweyers invoice all the screenings into the feedlot at market value (about \$1 per hundredweight) and the lambs still show a profit. During the the past two or three years, the margin has been small, but it has been there nevertheless.

The lambs reach the feedlot in mid-October, and are turned to grass immediately for about six weeks before being offered any grain. With the approach of winter, the lambs are brought into the feedlot, the smallest ones are sorted out into a separate enclosure, and feed is offered to them for the first time.

Hay is fed free choice, and screenings at the rate of about two pounds per head per day, for a couple of months before the lambs go on full feed of about three pounds of screenings. The lambs are turned out for daily exercise.

They are expected to gain 40 pounds each before spring arrives, and they are shipped out during March and April weighing about 100 pounds. —D.R.B. v



Left to right are Harvey Weadick, Ontario Sales Manager for Pioneer Feeds; Albert Lamb, Clarence Lamb, and Bruce Ferguson, Pioneer Feed Dealer, Brantford, Ont. Albert Lamb's son, Clarence, won the Holby Trophy for the highest number of points in the 1956 4-H Ayrshire competitions at the Simcoe Fair.

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This is the home of the all-Canadian record 2-year-old LAMBLEA JEAN classified "VERY GOOD," and bred and owned by Albert Lamb. Her Canadian record, made at 2 years and 71 days, as a junior 2-year-old, took her to these top honours when she produced 13,761 pounds of milk with 562 pounds of fat, on twice-a-day milking. Her sire is ALFALFA BANK KATE'S SAMSON and she is out of Hewitt's Dairy ROYAL JEAN. Twenty-four head in the Lamblea herd averaged 10,189 pounds of milk in a 313-day average. The herd's milk index is 1.74 with a fat index of 171 (average is 100).

Albert Lamb has been in the Purebred Ayrshire breeding business for 6 years and during the last 4 years his herd has been on R.O.P. One of JEAN'S sons, LAMBLEA JEAN'S BURTON, was awarded Reserve Junior Champion at the 1956 Southern Counties Ayrshire Show.

We are proud that Pioneer Dairy Rations have helped to develop type and production in this herd.



LAMBLEA JEAN "VERY GOOD" All-Canadian record 2-year-old, bred and owned by Albert Lamb.

## Be Businesslike, Says this Veteran Cattleman



Left: A couple of polled Shorthorns on the Hicks farm. Right: Mr. Hicks (hatless) and son Bob have made a businesslike arrangement between them.

**P**LANNED production and the keeping of detailed records have enabled W. H. Hicks to get the utmost value from his polled Shorthorns over a long period. He believes that too many farmers are actually wasting money because they are unbusinesslike.

Mr. Hicks, who farms at Souris, Man., started in the polled Shorthorn business when he bought a bull from South Dakota in 1931. He had observed that polled cattle were fetching better prices than horned ones at the Brandon sales, even when they were slightly inferior in other respects. There were only 64 breeders of the Shorthorns without horns in the

U.S.A., at that time, but he was able to locate the type of bull he needed, and became one of the pioneers of polling in Canada.

He bred this to a horned cow, which is the hard way. Even now there is an occasional throwback to the horned kind. At first, the grade cows were throwing more polled calves than the purebreds, but he discovered that this was just a kink in the breeding, and finally got all registered stock. He has had a fully accredited herd for 20 years, and never a reactor among them.

It has not always been easy for Mr. Hicks, but as an example of what can happen in this business, there was the



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## Fertilizer Guides for Prairie Farmers

Use of high analysis fertilizers for crop production continues to increase in the prairie provinces, as more farmers realize the benefits that result from applying the correct type and rate of fertilizer according to their soil and crop. The importance of matching the fertilizer to the soil is stressed by agriculturists.

Farmers who have been unable to obtain a soil analysis and fertilizer recommendations will welcome the news that crop production guides based on provincial government information are now available. Separate guides for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are being distributed by Harrisons & Crosfield

(Canada) Ltd., sales agents for the Northwest line of high analysis fertilizers.

The tables correlate the various prairie soil zones (ranging from Brown-Black to High Lime) with the recommended types and application rates of fertilizers. In addition to information on cereals grown on summerfallow and stubble, the guides show figures for legumes, grass legume mixtures and grasses.

Free copies of the guides are available from the grain elevator companies who have played an important role in making Northwest fertilizers available across the prairies:

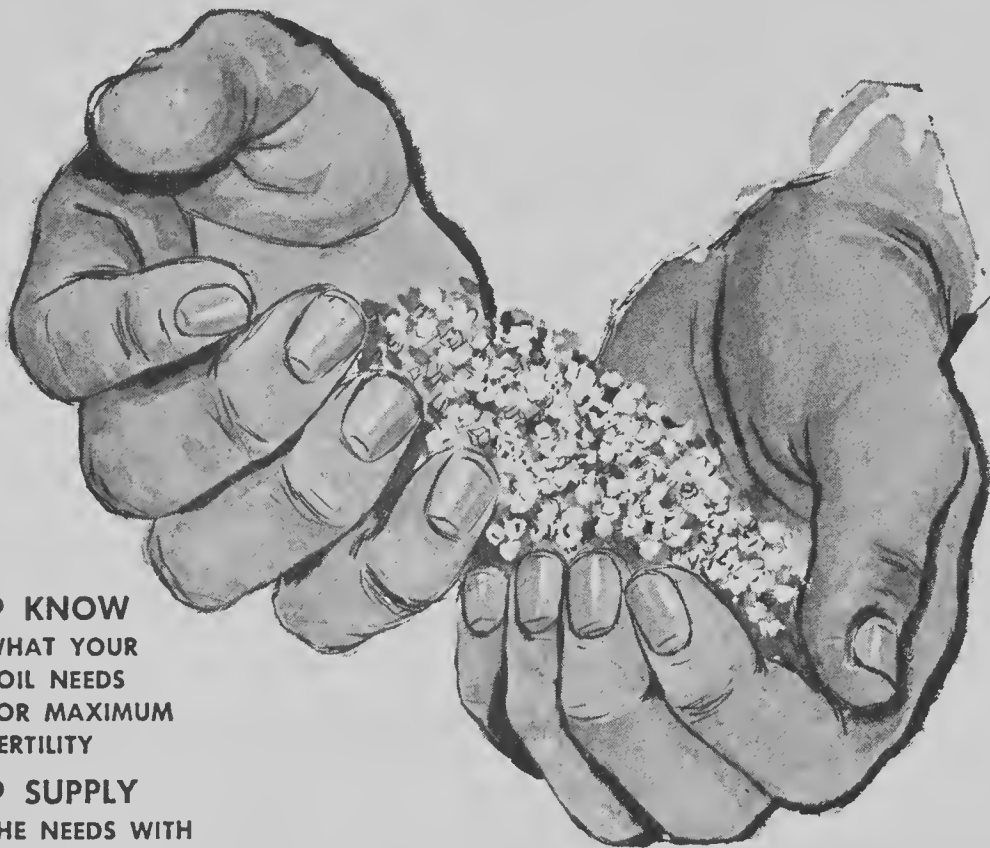
The Alberta Pacific Grain Company (1943) Limited.

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This top-flight distribution system is meeting the increasing demand by farmers who have found that Northwest fertilizers have maintained or increased crop quality and yield. Tests show these fertilizers give stronger starts for seedlings, better disease resistance, more efficient use of moisture and earlier maturity.

Farmers are strongly recommended to place their orders for fertilizer early, to avoid the heavy demand which normally precedes seeding time. Northwest products can be stored, and by ordering now you can be sure of having supplies on hand when needed.

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## LIVESTOCK

sale in 1955. As in more recent years, the elevators were so full that farmers weren't able to deliver their grain, and consequently one would imagine that there would not be very much money about. Nevertheless, Mr. Hicks went ahead with his plans for a sale on his farm. There was no shortage of customers, the farmers kept coming, and he sold \$10,000 worth of his Short-horns. The polled variety were still fetching a better price.

Such good fortune doesn't come by accident, and when it does come, it's not everybody who can show a good profit. His advice to anybody in the livestock business is to have a basic herd. Because he did, he paid very little income tax on his \$10,000 sale, and it was well worth the trouble of keeping records.

He was working on a basic herd of 32 head, but cattle under two years count as half, so actually he was able to include 48 head. The total number sold was 55.

For a basic herd, he makes an inventory on the first of the year, setting down the price the cattle would likely bring on a farm auction sale. This must be done each year, basing the amount on the average stockyard price for that year. This inventory must be kept, and the basic herd is assessed on it.

This means that it is essential to keep a set of books, but not only for basic herd purposes. Mr. Hicks charges up all his legitimate expenses very carefully, including reasonable travelling expenses to fairs, where he can study prices and trends, and even for his subscriptions to farm publications.

"These little things count when it comes to being assessed for income tax purposes. But it is surprising how many farmers won't be bothered with them," he says.

When electrification reached his farm, just west of Souris, Mr. Hicks decided to put in a water system. Half of the water system was for the farm and half for his home, so he claimed half as a business expense, and it was approved for income tax purposes. It is hopeless to make claims unless proper records of expenses are kept, he points out.

The same businesslike approach was applied to his dealings with his son, Bob, who graduated in agricultural engineering last year. He sold the farm to Bob Hicks as a keen deal, but on a strictly fair basis. The result is that both of them are satisfied, and Mr. Hicks senior has not made himself dependent on his son. As part of the arrangement, the father retained the privilege of living on the farm, and also kept the cattle, but is enabling Bob to buy them gradually. The farm also produces grain and has a seeded acreage of brome and alfalfa for hay, as part of a rotation.

Mr. Hicks has another piece of advice for those who are wondering whether to go into the cattle business. He considers that if water supplies are difficult, or uncertain, and there are large productive fields, it is better not to go into livestock. In his case, there is a creek running right across the farm, and it seemed natural to him to keep cattle.—R.C.

## LIVESTOCK

## Care of Young Beef Calves

LIKE the stitch in time that saves nine, calf care is chiefly a matter of preventing troubles from developing. It's far cheaper to keep diseases out of the calf crop than to try to cure the animals afterwards. Bad management practices such as irregular feeding, overfeeding, low quality rations and poor sanitation are some of the main causes of diseases getting started. A few of the preventive "stitches" that will keep trouble out of your operation are as follows:

1. Keep your calves in separate quarters. Putting them in with older stock can cause a serious pneumonia outbreak in the younger animals.
2. Castrate, vaccinate, and dehorn early (within two months of birth). If vaccination is done very early, re-vaccinate at 6 to 8 months to provide full immunity.
3. Start calves on feed gradually to prevent scouring and other digestive disturbances. A safe amount to begin with is one-half pound per day per calf for every 100 pounds of body weight.
4. Feed at least 3 to 4 pounds of hay to each calf per day as roughage to guard against bloat. Be sure the animals have loose iodized salt and bone meal before them at all times—a double compartment feed box is handy for this.
5. After calves are 6 to 8 months old, it pays to roll or grind oats, wheat, or barley for them, but don't grind or roll it too fine or it may cause bloating.
6. Calves should have access to all the water they will drink at all times. The chill should be taken off this in cold weather.
7. Feed regularly (twice a day) and once your calves are on full feed, don't change from one feed to another.
8. Keep calf quarters clean, dry and well bedded. Manure accumulations breed flies, and dirty food racks or troughs can cause scouring.
9. If footrot develops, soak feet of infected animals in a saturated solution of bluestone (1 lb. of bluestone per 1 lb. water). For severe cases, call a veterinarian.
10. Spray all your calves regularly (once every three weeks in spring and summer, if needed) to control livestock insects. Give special treatment if cattle grubs are present, such as washing or dusting with rotenone powder. Good warble control is being obtained with the trolene bolus treatment. ✓

## Corn for Pig Feed

CORN-FED pigs may not necessarily be over-fat pigs after all. Pigs at the Western Ontario Experimental Farm, Ridgetown, are being self-fed grain corn, along with a 35 per cent pig concentrate, and over

half of them are killing out into Grade A carcasses.

Swine specialist Jack Underwood cautions that these pigs are from the farm's own herd, and have been specially selected over the years for lean carcasses. He says that feeder pigs bought at random through the country would not do as well. He also says that the pigs must be marketed as soon as they reach 200 lb., because additional growth is put on as a layer of fat. ✓

## Spring Bull Supply

THERE is not an overabundance of bulls this spring. Exports of bulls have been heavy from Alberta, and breeders made more steers a year ago than they have been doing normally. That's why the Alberta livestock supervisor, W. C. Gordon, advises you to secure bulls as soon as you can, or you may not be able to find what you want.

High market prices are being offered, and it is a great temptation to take advantage of them. However, it

is advisable to keep older bulls, which are still serviceable, until younger replacements are available, says Mr. Gordon. ✓

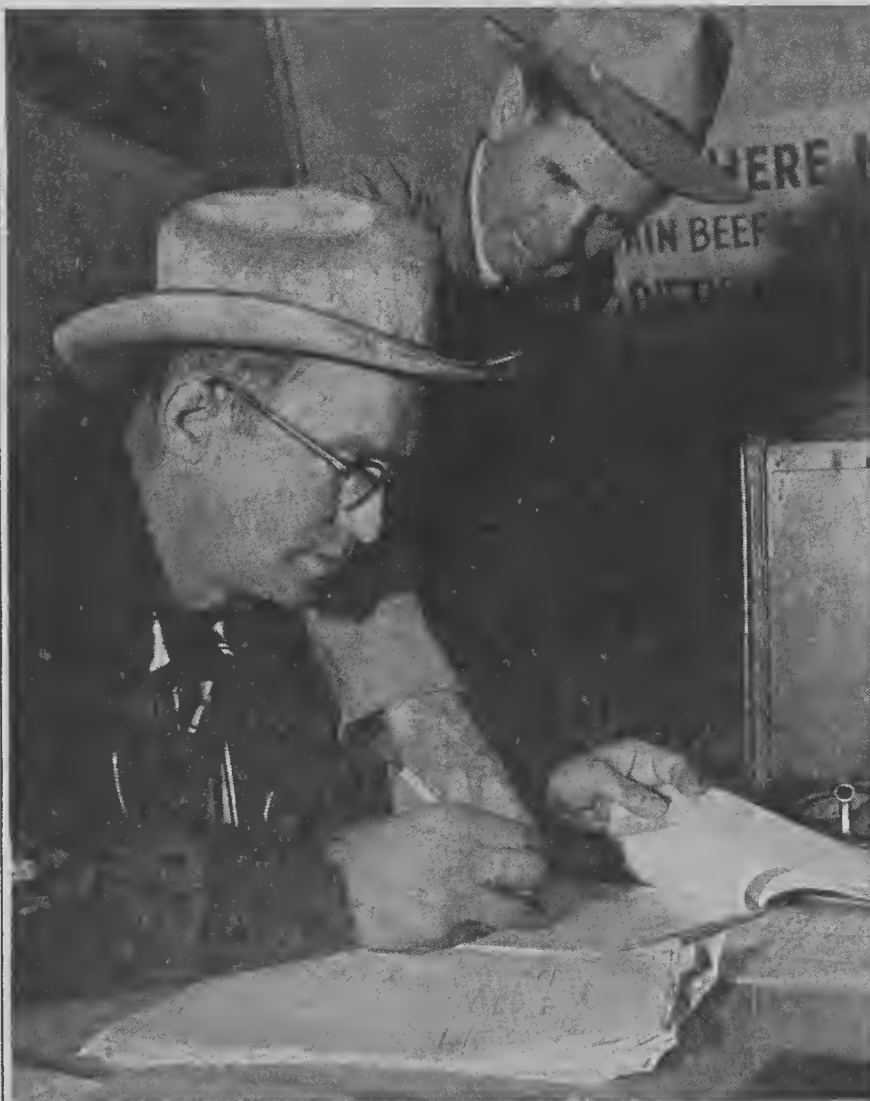
## Easy Does It

MAINTAIN regular feeding times and feeding practices. If any feed changes have to be made, make them gradually—particularly for cattle on full finishing rations. A abrupt changes interfere with the action of digestive bacteria, causing cattle scours and losses in daily gain. ✓



FEEDLOT INTERVIEW WITH THOMPSON AND TAYLOR, MEDICINE HAT, ALBERTA

## "Feed supplement with 'Stilbosol'... get almost a pound more gain"



*"I think if farmers would sell their cheap wheat and use the money to buy supplement with 'Stilbosol' they'd be ahead," says Lorne Thompson of Medicine Hat.*

by Eugene S. Hahnel

The names "Thompson and Taylor" mean a lot to cattle feeders in southern Alberta. Lorne Thompson and Jim Taylor run a feedlot at Medicine Hat, Alberta, and have 500 to 600 cattle on feed just about any time.

"Feed for cheapest gain," sums up their money-making philosophy. Since putting their cattle on 'Stilbosol'-fortified supplement, they figure their cattle make a pound of gain at a feed cost of only 13-14 cents.

"We used to feed single-source protein costing 3½ to 4½ cents a pound," Lorne Thompson states. "Now we feed a balanced protein supplement with 'Stilbosol' and vitamin A for about 5½ cents a pound and get almost another pound of gain." According to Thompson and Taylor, their cattle used to gain an average of 1½ lbs. a day. Since including 'Stilbosol' in the ration, the cattle are running about 2½ lbs. a day.

"With 60 or 70-cent wheat around," Taylor declares, "farmers hesitate to buy supplement. But I think that if they would sell their cheap wheat and use the money to buy supplement with 'Stilbosol' they'd be ahead."

Jim Taylor (left) and Lorne Thompson (right) kept records on one lot of 131 cattle that had 'Stilbosol'-fortified supplement in their ration. This lot averaged 3.0 lbs. daily gain over an 87-day finishing period. The cattle sold as Reds and Blues when marketed.



Jim Taylor (left) and Lorne Thompson (right) discuss their feeding program with feed manufacturer's representative, Bill Olafson. Olafson takes down gain figures of their 'Stilbosol'-fed cattle.



The ration fed by Thompson and Taylor is made up of ¾ wheat, ¼ barley, ¼ lb. beet pulp, 4 lbs. cut alfalfa and native hay and straw, 1 lb. supplement fortified with 'Stilbosol' and vitamin A.

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## Lye Solution for Teat Cup Assembly

IN our February issue we reported tests made by Dr. R. H. Wallace, Macdonald College, to find the effect of various lye solutions on bacteria in teat cup assemblies. He came to the conclusion that the lye solution should be maintained at 1 per cent for maximum efficiency, rather than the standard 0.5 per cent.

This has provoked a reply from C. K. Johns, who is in charge of dairy technology for the Experimental Farms Service. Dr. Johns says that since 1930 the standard procedure at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has been as follows: To suck fresh cold water through each assembly immediately after milking to rinse off residual milk. Next, to wash off any dirt on the outside of assemblies, and lastly, to place assemblies on a solution rack and fill each with 0.5 per cent lye solution. The assemblies are taken apart once a week, and inspected, brush washed, rinsed and returned to service.

They use two sets of liners. After a week's use, the first set is boiled in 2 per cent lye solution for 15 minutes, rinsed, and stored for 1 week in a cool place, while the second set of liners is in use. With this method, says Dr. Johns, they have had no difficulty in producing milk with bacteria counts averaging well below 10,000 per milliliter.

Rinse tests on six milking machine assemblies at the Central Experimental Farm, using the customary 0.5 per cent lye solution, gave an average count of 85 per milliliter, compared with the average for tap water of 57. This was after allowing 3 days' incubation at 32°C. to give slow-growing colonies of bacteria a better chance to show up.

Previous studies showed that 0.4 per cent lye solution kept bacterial contamination at a low level, but Dr.

Johns recommends 0.5 to give a margin of safety. He knows of no harm coming from a 1 per cent solution, but the use of a concentration above 0.5 may result in teat cups slipping off the cow, unless the cups are thoroughly rinsed before use. This additional step is recommended reluctantly except when it is done by sucking a germicidal solution through the teat cup assembly immediately before the next milking. V

## An 80-Cent Labor Bonus

WANT to save a hired man's wages in an average dairy herd? Erle Roger, who is livestock specialist for the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, quotes a survey in Ontario, which showed that one group of cows was managed with a labor saving of 80 cents per 100 pounds of milk. That's a saving of \$80 a year for each cow producing 10,000 pounds of milk, or a saving of \$1,600 on 20 cows, or about the yearly wage for a hired man.

This survey showed on 282 farms, where cows were well managed, each animal took 65 hours of labor a year. Another 282 farms took 154 hours per cow. Here's Mr. Roger's recipe for reducing work around the dairy barn:

1. Store feed close to feeding area, and handle feed as few times as possible.
2. Study chores and save on total distance travelled in feeding cows and cleaning stables.
3. Use automatic devices like self-filling water bowls, or a mechanized barn cleaner, if possible. Simple things like salt blocks in boxes save daily labor.
4. Carry concentrates and silage in feed carts or small wagons, and make one trip do for all cows.
5. Make a plan of the barn floor, and arrange everything to provide convenient routes for feeding and other chores.
6. Put feed in loft with machinery, and shove it down chutes or trapdoors to the cattle below.

Will this cost a lot? Not at all—it will save money. V

### Rubber Mats

### For Cow

### Comfort



COWS enjoy the comfort of standing or lying on rubber mats, according to Albert Neil, who farms with his dad at Fredericton, N.B. The Neils installed mats (that's a remnant of one he is holding) in each of the 52 stalls in their new stables, and on the ramps as well.

The heavy rubber padding, which is nearly one inch thick, virtually eliminated knee and leg troubles in the herd, and cut the bedding requirements in about one-sixth.

The mats, which cost about \$30 each, are set right into the concrete. V





*Farmer Wise says:*

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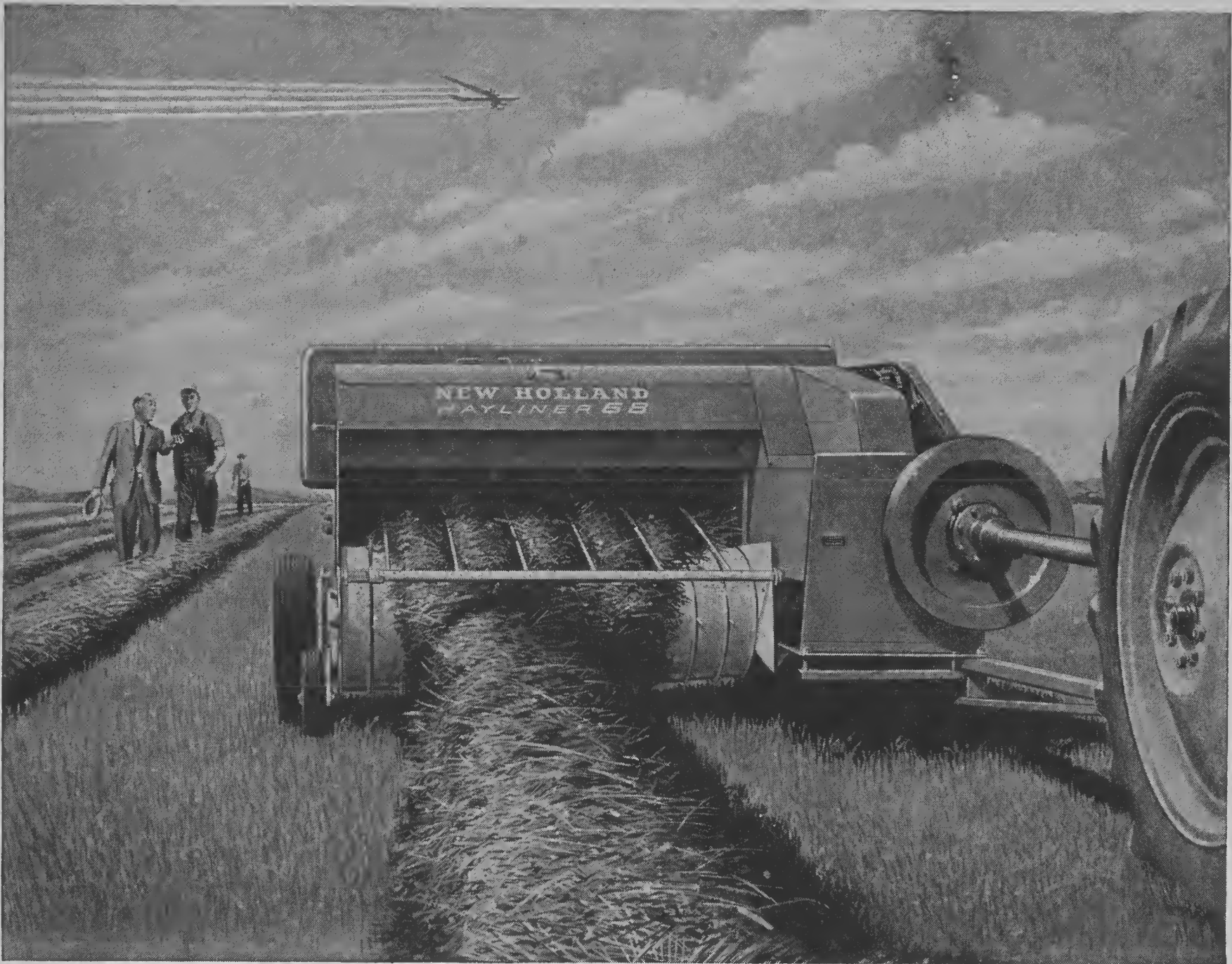
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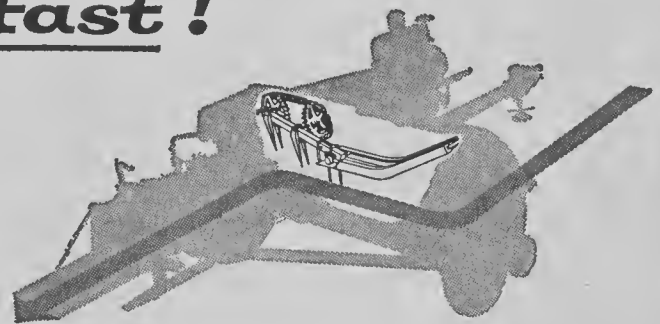
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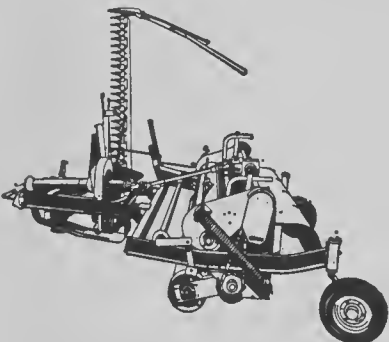
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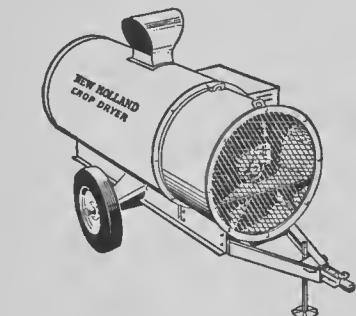
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## "Spoonfed" Grassland Doesn't Have Indigestion

**J**UST because the seedlings in a new stand of grass don't bawl like hungry calves if they are underfed, there is no reason for omitting to fertilize them for best results.

According to Dr. K. R. Nielsen, soils expert at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, feeding forage plants is much like feeding calves. Give them one big feed occasionally and the result will likely be indigestion. He recommends what he calls "spoon feeding." He says yields will be higher if fertilizer is applied every year, or even a couple of times a year, rather than in one heavy application every three or four years.

We asked Dr. Nielsen to describe the best way to establish a high-yielding stand of grass or hay.

The first step, he said, is to have a soil analysis taken of the field. A representative sample of soil from each land area must be tested, and then soils experts can correlate the results of the analysis with yield responses, to come up with fertilizer recommendations.

In seeding down with a nurse crop, both the nurse crop and the hay crop must be considered, and the fertilizing program drawn up for both. If the nurse crop is oats, it must be fertilized to give a satisfactory yield, but its growth must not be stimulated to the detriment of the forage seedlings. Oats must be seeded lightly if they are to be raised as a grain crop, but if they are to be cut while still green and put up as silage, then they can be seeded at a heavier rate.

**I**F oats are fertilized with 400 lb. per acre of 4-24-12, and then are cut for green feed, enough phosphorus and potash will likely remain in the soil to carry the new seedlings into winter. However, if the oats are allowed to ripen, these nutrients will likely be depleted from the soil, and another application after harvest might assist the new seeding to get established and harden up for winter.

In this case, if such an application is made, then the stand of grass will not likely require any more fertilizer the following spring. If there is a good stand of legumes in the mix, Dr. Nielsen says the field may not require any additional nitrogen that year, but it almost certainly will need some the following year.

Once the field is established, Dr. Nielsen suggests another trick to boost forage yields and help overcome the problem of surplus, during the period of intense spring growth, followed by scarcity during late summer drought. He recommends that the field be dressed with phosphorus and potash after the first flush of spring growth. Nitrogen can be applied then too, if it is required. This should boost the

Watch how you are  
applying fertilizers

growth at a time when it is normally easing off.

Sandy soils that are low in organic matter have different needs, and Dr. Nielsen suggests that an application of nitrogen first thing in the spring will be required to get grass or hay on such land off to a fast start.

The thing to remember about the fertilizer program for grassland is that small amounts of fertilizer, applied regularly, will give much better results than a big application every few years. "Spoon feeding," he calls it, and recommends it for best results.—D.R.B. V

## Grasshopper Forecast for 1958

**L**IGHT to moderate grasshopper infestations are expected in 52 Manitoba municipalities this year. The center of activity has shifted to the southwest, with the major build-up south from Souris through Melita to Lyleton, but this is rated only as moderate. Also moderate is the infestation expected for the MacGregor-Neepawa-Brandon region, and light infestation in the Red River Valley. Municipalities and agricultural representatives have the details.

About 100 municipalities in Saskatchewan are threatened seriously by grasshoppers. The two-striped hopper will predominate along the U.S. border, the roadside hopper in the south and central regions, and the stubble hopper north of Prince Albert. The stubble hopper is expected to be found in all areas too. The provincial department of agriculture has enough chemical to treat 1 million acres, and farmers can obtain it at less than 20 cents per treated acre. Cultivation of stubble cropland is urged for grasshopper control, by cleaning vegetation off fields before grasshopper nymphs hatch.

In Alberta, the grasshopper infestation is still confined to the extreme south, but more damage can be expected in 1958. More eggs of the worst pest species, the lesser migratory grasshopper, were found in the fall of 1957 than for several years. The other important species are the two-striped and roadside grasshopper. Moderate infestations are expected in the Turin area, and in a north-south strip between Foremost and Warner. Light infestations are likely along the Oldman River valley north of Pincher Creek and Cowley. Localized outbreaks may occur outside these areas if spring is exceptionally favorable, and farmers are warned to be on the lookout, particularly along the Saskatchewan border in the Hilda and Empress regions. Stubble fields should be checked during spring, especially around Turin. V

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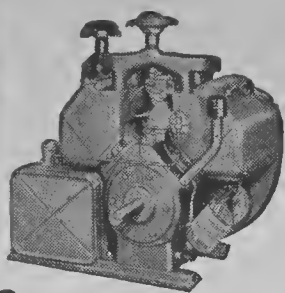
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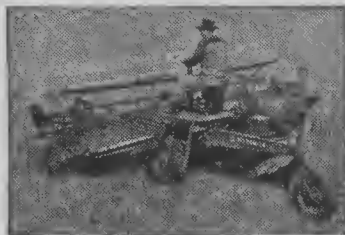


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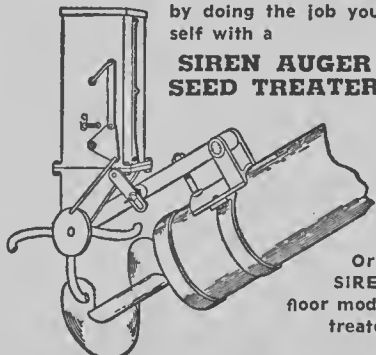
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## SOILS AND CROPS

### Burnt-Out Soil Is Coming to Life

TILLAGE practices developed by a Radville farmer are making big crops possible in a slice of southern Saskatchewan, where cement-like soil had some farmers pulling out in despair.

This burnt-out soil, the result of chemical sludge from a former inland sea, had cactus as almost the only greenery, where sun and moderate rains appeared ideal for wheat growing. In 1925, Glen Levee began his tillage experiments, and today he has high average yields of 27.2 bushels of wheat per acre. Timely tillage to conserve moisture was the key.

With about 2 million acres of burnt-out soils in Saskatchewan, Mr. Levee's success led the provincial and federal departments of agriculture to appoint him as supervisor of tillage for three other similar farms. It is believed that burnt-out soils are caused by high deposits of sodium and magnesium, which disperse clay particles, and result in a hard soil layer which sheds water. It also slows up nitrification and limits the amount of air entering the soil.

Glen Levee's first operation on summerfallow is with a disk, and he uses it twice if there's a lot of straw. He follows this with a spring-tooth harrow. He believes that the sooner you get onto this land the better, and has even quit seeding if the summerfallow was ready for him. It is already obvious that his methods are paying off on the other three farms, as well as his own. Above-average yields are now being recorded.

A further suggestion comes from Dr. W. J. Staple of the Soils Research Laboratory, Swift Current. He believes that in addition to early and effective cultivation, mixing good topsoil into the burnt-out, the tough soil layer could be penetrated by growing deep-rooted crops, such as sweet clover. — J.A.

### Maintaining Value of Manure

MANURE is a valuable farm asset, and it is well worthwhile to take some trouble in looking after it. Prof. W. T. Ewen of the Ontario Agricultural College says surveys show that manure stored in barnyards and exposed to leaching, loses about one-third of its value before it gets to the field.

To prevent these losses, he suggests moving manure into covered sheds, or storing it in concrete manure pits.

Loose housing for cattle solves the problem by keeping the winter's accumulation under cover.

If manure must be kept in the open, it should be in compact lots on level ground in the field where it is to be used. It should not be spread on bare, sloping fields in winter.

To keep the manure in good condition at the start, Professor Ewen recommends plenty of bedding to absorb liquids. Superphosphate in the gutters, at the rate of 1 pound per head per day, holds ammonia and other nitrogen.

### Compare Fertilizer Costs

AFTER many tests at the University of Alberta and experimental farms in the province, it was concluded that there was little difference in the effect of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer compared with other nitrogen fertilizers, when applied at equal rates of actual nitrogen per acre under normal conditions. In view of this, there is no special advantage in using anhydrous ammonia, unless the cost of applying it is as low, or lower than other nitrogen fertilizers.

W. Lobay and A. W. Goettel advise you to analyze the cost of anhydrous ammonia equipment before buying it, and suggest that it may not be a wise investment unless very large acreages are to be fertilized at relatively high rates.

### The Palouse Prairie

PICTURE a land where the topography is as rough as the surface of a gale-blown sea, yet so fertile it comprises one of the richest agricultural counties in North America. Where the lush brown soil lies to a depth of 50 to 75 feet, rainfall comes when it's needed, harvest time is generally clear and dry, and crop failures are almost unknown. Where wheat yields run better than 60, and average 45 bushels to the acre, and combines need a special levelling device to keep them on course. That is the Palouse country of eastern Washington.

How the Palouse was formed has always been a mystery to geologists. Some say the soil is decayed granite or basalt, the underlying rock. Others, that it is windblown dust carried from drier lands which lie to the west during the Pleistocene age. Canadians are linked to this region through a spirited horse called the Appaloosa (a Palouse), which is finding favor in this country. —C.V.F.



Eastern edge of Palouse meets the hills of Idaho. On right is "know-how" feed laboratory financed by cattlemen for the Washington State College.

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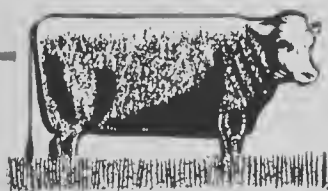


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### SOILS AND CROPS

#### Advantages of Fertilized Hay

**F**ERTILIZER is important to hay crops, and in using it, you should take into account the nature of the soil, and previous treatments of the land with manure and crops.

Following 29 hay tests over 13 years in Carleton County, Ont., Dr. B. J. Finn of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, reports that nitrogen added to the oat crop decreased yields of first-year hay by 232 lb. of dry matter per acre, but phosphorus increased the yield of hay, particularly on the finer textured soils, showing an average increase of 771 lb. of dry matter. Potassium produced a slight increase in hay on all soils except clay loams, with an average rise of 145 lb. of dry matter per acre. v

#### Dwarf Wheat Is on the Way

**A** DWARF wheat which performs like a giant is being developed at Washington State College under USDA researcher Dr. O. A. Vogel. Some of the white "shorty" strains produced over 100 bushels per acre, with a top of 136 bushels, on experimental plots in the fertile Palouse area, as compared to 61-85 bushels for the regular wheats.

The new wheats are from 2 to 3 feet tall, which is 10 to 20 inches shorter than the shortest of the present commercial winter wheat varieties. Most of them show no lodging under conditions that cause severe lodging in the taller wheats, but, oddly enough, they produce just about as much straw as the latter because of a heavy stem growth.

Two factors of the dwarf wheats that need further investigation are a low protein level (8 per cent), and the possibility of a greater susceptibility to disease because of the low, dense plant growth.

"At the present time these wheats are for experimental use only," Dr. Vogel told The Country Guide. "We may have a good deal of breeding to do yet before they can be used by farmers."

#### Alfalfa Boosts Hay Yields

**I**N dry years, alfalfa-grass mixtures have given an extra cutting of hay in most cases, and substantial yield increases over pure grass stands in all cases, according to W. J. Doran of Lacombe Experimental Farm, Alta. This was shown very strikingly in 1957.

A test was seeded down at Lacombe in 1954, with 10 grass species and varieties grown alone, and in mixture with alfalfa. Only two of the pure species—big bluegrass and green needlegrass—produced sufficient regrowth for a second cutting. All grasses, with alfalfa, except commercial brome, gave a substantial second cutting composed mainly of alfalfa.

It was very dry in central Alberta last year. The greater yield of the mixtures was accounted for by the alfalfa foraging deep to utilize moisture not available to shallow-root grasses. v



## SOILS AND CROPS

# Potatoes Were Not Enough



[Guide photos]  
Gloria and Linda Jewett earn spending money each fall picking potatoes. Their dad is diversifying his farming and grows peas as a new cash crop.

JAMES JEWETT has spent a lifetime growing potatoes in the rich brown soil of New Brunswick's potato belt. His farm at Lakeville, where he grows 30 acres of the crop, and his son grows another 20, lies less than a dozen miles from potato-famed Maine, across the United States border.

The district is strikingly similar in many ways to parts of the wheat-growing prairies. Instead of the tower-

ing grain elevators at every rail siding, the sprawling potato houses stretch out along the tracks. Farm after farm, with their dug-in gable-roofed potato storage set in the farmyards, and fields of potatoes rolling off endlessly beyond the furthest hill, announces to travellers its reliance on a single crop.

But as with wheat growers of the West, total reliance on that single crop has been a precarious business in the past few years.

"I don't know why we insist on doing things we know we shouldn't do," Jewett says with a wry smile. "We depend too much on potatoes. We need to diversify." He is doing something about that need too.

When a new freezing plant was built at Florenceville last year, and the owners came into the district looking for farmers to grow peas for them, Jewett jumped at the chance. He contracted for 35 acres, although he had never grown the crop before. He helped canvass his neighbors too, so that 140 acres were grown last summer.

OTHER developments are helping the area. For instance, the Valley Growers Co-operative was formed at Grand Falls in 1952 to process surplus potatoes, and it built the first continuous-process potato starch



Laurent Morin is a director of the Valley Growers Co-op, which is turning potato starch waste into a feed.



Hubert Rideout is building a beef herd to diversify his potato program.



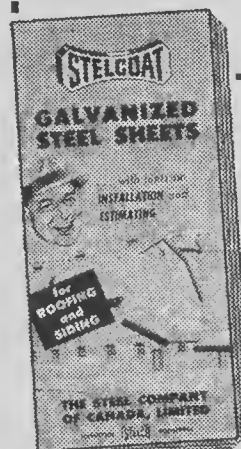
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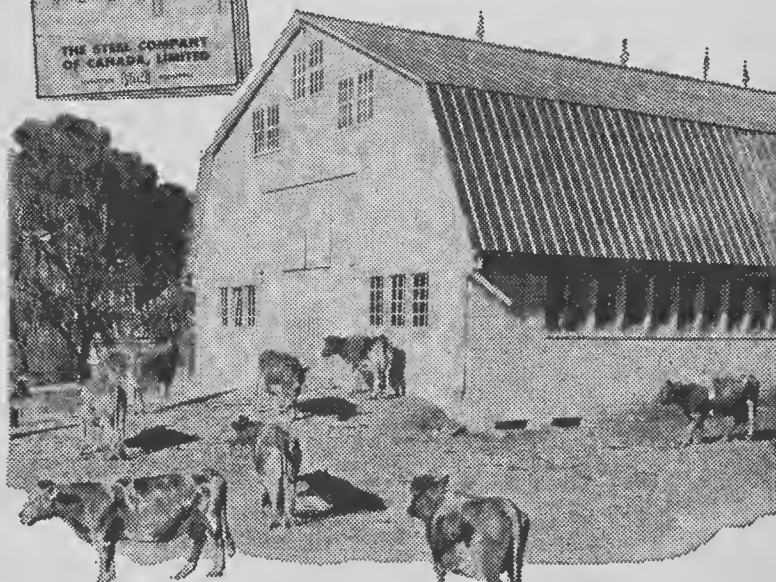
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## SOILS AND CROPS

factory in North America. It has been blazing new trails ever since, and now is building the first dried potato pulp plant in Canada. This will make livestock feed out of waste pulp from its own and other nearby plants. The pulp was being dumped into the St. John River and created a pollution problem.

Research in the U.S.A., where one such plant has already been established, has demonstrated that up to 400 lb. of it can be used in a ton

of mixed dairy rations to replace barley and wheat.

The co-op, while turning to new markets itself, is encouraging its members to diversify their own programs too, and is putting a special emphasis on livestock.

Cattle can play an important role on a potato farm, it tells members, by eating the legumes which are grown as an integral part of the crop rotation. This means extra income, and provides manure for the land as well.

Hubert Rideout of Grand Falls is one grower who has shown the way by building up a sizeable beef herd

as a partner enterprise with his potato program.

Of course, learning new techniques is never an easy job, and pea-grower Jewett recalls with a drawl that at least one grower had hardly started preparing the ground for the new crop, when he wished he'd never heard of peas. But when harvest time was over, that same grower wished he had more of them to sell.

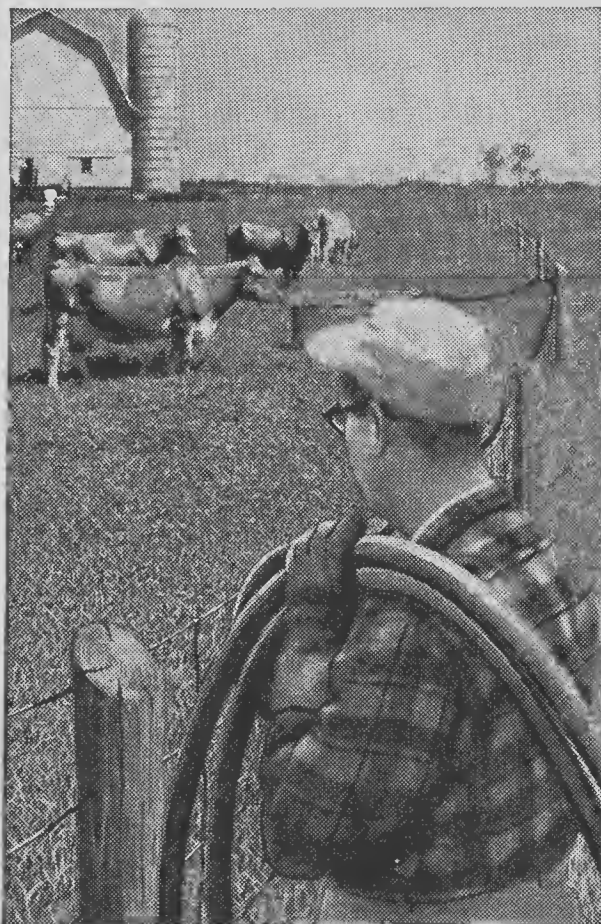
One reason for their success with this crop was that the contracting firm brought specialists into the district to advise growers how to get the best results.

"If they didn't know more about growing the crop than I did, there would have been something wrong," recalled Jewett. "I followed their advice."

Mr. Laurent Morin, who grows 80 acres of seed stock at Grand Falls, says that this diversification is bound to ease the effects of poor potato years on district growers. But he also says that district farmers will be specializing in potatoes for many years to come, and predicts that in the future as in the past, potato growing will be a business with many ups and downs. V

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### Special Care In Seeding Flax

SEEDBED preparation is especially important for flax, which requires more exacting conditions for germination and emergence than wheat, oats or barley. The seedbed should be shallow, firm, moist and relatively free of weeds, says A. Wenhardt of the Swift Current Experimental Farm, Sask.

Working the area for flax seeding should begin as soon as it is practical in the spring to destroy weeds that have overwintered or have started early, and also to prevent the soil from baking. The use of a rodweeder about 10 to 14 days later, just before seeding, will destroy weed growth, and can provide the shallow, moist and firm seedbed. It may be necessary to rodweed a second time to firm up loose soil before seeding. This method of seedbed preparation applies to other small seeded crops, as well as flax. V

### Dates for Planting Beets

SEEDING sugar beets before the first week of May will not increase yield or sugar content in most years. If weather permits, farmers will still seed before that time to fit in with their farm operations, but they should realize that normally it does not increase the length of time in which the beets will be actively growing.

G. C. Russell of the Lethbridge Experimental Farm, Alta., reports on a method of lengthening the growing season by growing seedlings in hotbeds until weather permits transplanting into the field. When this was done, seedlings were kept in the greenhouse for 6 weeks, until May 16, owing to cold, wet weather and some snow during the first two weeks of May. The transplanted beets yielded 27.01 tons per acre with a sugar content of 17 per cent, compared with beets planted in the field on May 16, which yielded 17.8 tons per acre with 17.1 per cent sugar.

Last year, beets were seeded in the hotbed on April 1, and transplanted on May 6, and outyielded field plantings on April 18 and May 6, even though it was a year when early field planting paid an unusual dividend. V

### Get in Step

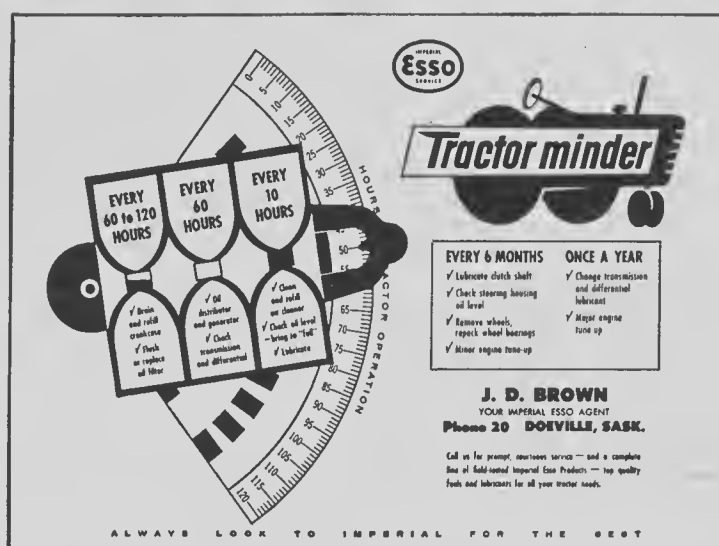
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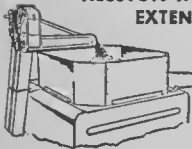
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## HORTICULTURE

### Water for The Vegetable Garden

**A**MBITIOUS gardeners are often tempted early in the season to use the hose, or watering can, fairly frequently. The danger from this anxiety is that the vegetables will be watered too frequently, and not well enough each time. Shallow watering tends to discourage the roots from penetrating deeply enough, with the result that later on, when the plant is bigger and perhaps fruiting, and its drain on moisture is much heavier, it is almost bound to suffer in hot weather. A better watering program is to water the vegetables only when they need it and then water heavily enough so that the water penetrates to spade depth. Almost equally important is to keep the weeds down, but otherwise use the hoe or cultivator sparingly after plants are well established, except to keep a mulch of loose soil on the surface.

which often hit the valley do not strike the acres of blooming glads, which are often still being cut late in October. The blooms are cut from the middle of July and are shipped to florists in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and many centers in Nova Scotia. Packed in special cartons of 100, they are air freighted when possible.

The main enemies of the gladioli grower, says Fred Walsh, are thrips and blight. The thrip is a tiny insect almost invisible to the naked eye, which will continue to rasp away at the leaves and blooms if unhindered. Control of this pest is started at digging time by dusting the corms with DDT. After cleaning in the winter, the corms are again dusted with DDT, as well as Arasan to control fungus diseases. DDT is applied to the foliage in regular applications during the growing season for thrips, and Dithane is used for blight.

With this control program, Mr. Walsh has few blemishes on blooms among his 150 varieties. A recent graduate in agriculture from MacDonald College, Mr. Walsh has found that growing glads can be an important item in his farming program, and as a farmer he makes a business of growing gladioli.—D. I. Scotney. V

### Cash Crop Lasts Three Months

**F**RED WALSH of Berwick, N.S., has a crop which starts to bring in cash about the middle of July and lasts until October. Some might call it a sideline, but to Mr. Walsh his 6 acres of gladioli blooms are another cash crop, and are expected to yield their share of revenue along with the 2,000 laying hens and 15 acres of orchard on his farm.

He admits that gladioli take more time than most crops, but he has found them worthwhile. He grows six acres and keeps them in rotation so that glads are not grown on the same land more than once every five years. This is done as a precaution against the danger of disease. He makes four plantings a year from April 23 to July 12, setting them out in a combination of early and late blooming types to give him continuous color throughout the summer.

Mr. Walsh's farm is on high ground south of Berwick, and the early frosts

### Treatment Of Snow Mold

**S**NOW mold disease appears in roughly circular patches, in which dead grass is matted together and has a white-gray color. In severe cases the patches run together. The disease attacks grass during mild periods in winter, when heavy rains or a thaw supply the necessary moisture. Grass is especially susceptible when it goes into winter in a green, succulent condition because of late applications of soluble nitrogen.

The treatments recommended by the Saanichton Experimental Farm, B.C., are as follows. The first is a dry mercury fungicide powder applied at the rate of 4 ounces per 1,000 square feet of lawn. It is mixed at the rate of 4 ounces of powder to 10 quarts of dry sand, and is spread uniformly over the area.

The second treatment is phenol mercury acetate, a liquid which is applied with water and sprayed over the



[Guide photo]

For many enthusiastic gardeners, the appeal of perennial borders lies in the wide variety of type, height and season of plants, and their color.



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HORTICULTURE

diseased area at the rate of one-tenth pint per 1,000 square feet.

These fungicides will prevent the disease if applied in the fall, with a second application in January, if the disease is not already established. They will check the disease and stop it spreading if it is established. ✓

Dry Land Gardening

by M. DONALD BROWN

A GOOD garden, properly set up and cared for, pays back many dollars for every day spent on it, as well as the aesthetic value of that fresh-from-the-garden taste. We have found the following methods helpful in ensuring a crop in dry years.

The garden should, of course, be in fertile soil, well drained and sheltered from frosts by elevation and trees. If possible, half the plot should be fallowed each year, and the fences arranged so that the fallowing and major spring operations can be done with the field machinery. It only takes a few minutes to root up the garden patch when you are hooked onto the field tillage machinery, if there is a wide gate and room to turn around inside. The soil can be improved by adding manure or straw to the fallow area in the spring, to allow weed seeds to germinate and be killed during the summer.

In the spring, stir the soil deeply with the cultivator. For us, the plow wastes too much moisture, and the one-way doesn't go deep enough. We prefer to loosen the soil about 8 to 10 inches deep with the cultivator, and if rows are straight, we can plant right in the furrows. In windy areas, leave the soil rough. Harrowing improves the surface by breaking up the clods, giving a better protective mulch and ease of future working; but it is not an essential operation in most soils. The essential part of our dry land cropping is as follows:

The seeds should be planted where they will be in contact with subsoil moisture. They may be planted in the cultivator furrows or in trenches prepared with the hoe to a depth of 4 to 8 inches, although they should be placed in the lower layers of topsoil rather than in or on subsoil. The bottom of the trench should be hoed or raked to give a fine, even seedbed; the seeds dropped and covered with the required one-quarter to one-half inch of soil. Then the soil and seeds should be packed, so that a good contact will be made with the lower soil layers, to allow the moisture to move up around the seeds. A firm tamping with the rake held vertically will achieve this effect. The layer of fine, loose soil should be raked down onto this packed material, to protect the soil below from rapid evaporation.

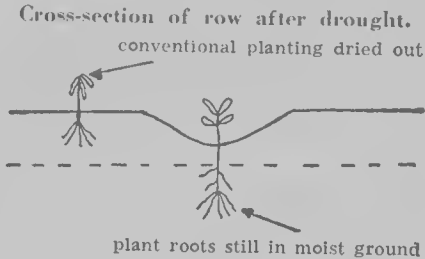
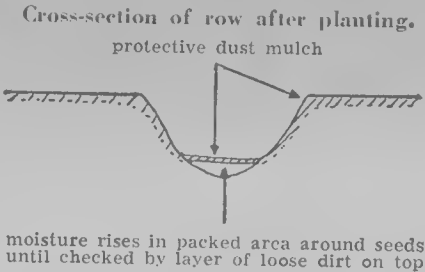
We usually plant about 50 feet at a time, or less, to avoid drying out the soil which is stirred up in planting. The ground between the rows is mulched as deeply as possible with the rake, to retard evaporation and weed growth. It will be necessary to rake over the spaces after each rain to maintain the mulch. However, this is easier than hoeing out weeds, since

raking is several times faster than hoeing. In windy areas, these spaces would be better left in a rough condition with the hoe, rather than raked. The essential part is to keep the surface broken up enough to check evaporation.

WHEN plants reach a height of about one inch, more dirt is raked down and packed firmly around them, and another loose layer left on top. This soil should come up to, but not over, the leaves, which must be exposed to the light for growth. This filling-in process can be continued, as the stems lengthen, until the trenches are filled; or they can be left partly filled to check wind drift or for watering. In this way, the roots grow deep down in damp ground, yet the plant does not have to struggle up through an overwhelming depth of soil.

In case of frost, we have completely covered the plants by raking loose soil over them to a depth of half an inch. This must be dusted off so that the leaves are exposed during the day, unless the daytime temperature remains below freezing. Plants should not be left continuously covered more than 48 hours, or damage is likely to result when they are exposed to sunlight again.

LARGE seeds, such as corn, beans, peas and squash, should be soaked in water for several hours before planting. All seeds need moisture for germination, so plant them in moist ground, even after soaking. Cabbage and cauliflower, grown under this system, planted in clumps and later thinned, will eliminate the setback of transplanting, thus catching up to those plants which were started early in the cold-frame. Plants that require thinning, such as turnips, chard and broccoli, we plant in small clumps a suitable distance apart, since



planting a solid row and then chopping most of the plants out again wastes moisture, seeds, and energy.

This system of planting seeds where the roots will be in continuous contact with subsoil moisture, then filling in around them as the stems lengthen, will save a good deal of worry and most of the labor of irrigation. If your soil is going to dry out to a depth greater than that of the trench bottom, in spite of packing in the rows and a dust mulch on the whole surface, then you will just have to irrigate. The trenches are handy for this, although care should be taken not to bury the leaves in mud, and the surface should be mulched as soon as possible after flooding.

These ideas have been adapted from Prairie grain-growing methods. The press drill opens furrows, drops seed, and packs a column of soil under and over the seed, leaving the spaces between the drill rows loose to conserve moisture. The surface is often subsequently harrowed to stop evaporation. The extension of this system to gardening has resulted in much less time spent hoeing and watering in the busy season of the year. ✓

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## POULTRY

### Keep Them Inside or Out?

**N**EWFOUNDLAND has entered into the controversy as to whether confinement or range rearing is best for replacement pullets. The St. John's West Experimental Farm reports that pullets reared in confinement there produced more eggs on less feed per dozen than pullets on grass range.

The laying trial lasted 14 months, with 360 in-cross hybrid hens reared in confinement, and 360 from the same hatch on range. Average egg production in confinement was 65 per cent, compared with 62 per cent on rangerearing, with feed consumption of 4.8 lb. per doz. and 5.1 lb. respectively. Egg size was not affected, but mortality was lower among the confined birds during the laying period. V

### Increased Feed Value

**T**HE nutritional value of cereal grains, particularly barley, can be increased by giving them a water treatment, according to Dr. James McGinnis of the Poultry Science Department, Washington State College. This treatment consists of grinding the barley, wetting it with an equal

weight of water, and then drying it in an oven at 70°C.

Fed to both chicks and turkey poults, water-treated barley greatly increased the growth and feed efficiency of the birds. The improvement of the barley through wetting appears to be caused by enzymes (digestive substances) within the grain being activated by the water, so that a certain amount of pre-digestion occurs.

Apparently science has finally justified what used to be considered as an "old wives' tale" of old-time stockmen, who claimed exceptionally good results from feed soaked in water. V

### Seed Treatment Not for the Birds

**W**HAT effect does treated seed grain have, if it's fed to poultry? Some tests have been made at the University of Manitoba, with Ceresan M purposely added to poultry feed, to see what effect it would have on laying hens and growing chicks.

Laying hens showed no ill effect, when they had mash containing Ceresan M for nine weeks in amounts recommended for seed treatment. However, following this period their egg production, body weight and feed consumption declined. One by one, they stopped laying, and after 22 weeks on the treated ration, all the birds died.

Growing chicks were given a ration with half the amount of Ceresan M used for seed treatment, and stayed alive for a year, but egg production

was very low. The eggs did not hatch well, and those chicks that hatched didn't live more than two weeks. The eggs also had an unpleasant flavor.

The University recommends that it is not advisable to feed treated grain to poultry. But if the birds gain access to treated seed accidentally, they will likely be none the worse for it, if the period is short and the concentration of Ceresan M is not excessive. V

### Fast Growers May Have Faults

**T**URKEY research has shown that fast-growing birds require less feed per pound of gain than slower-growing ones. What is needed is a breeding program designed to improve growth rate, while avoiding the introduction of bad traits, such as an adverse relationship between body size and reproduction, the appearance of crooked keels and abnormal hocks, all of which are likely to be more common in large strains than in smaller ones.

A. S. Johnson, who has been working on this at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, says that if maximum improvement in body size at a certain age is required, then the birds should be selected on the basis of their weight at that age, rather than at any other age. This means, for example, that a breeder can make progress in developing a broiler strain of turkeys by selecting for weight at broiler age. It is worth remembering, however, that selection should not ignore the other qualities, such as conformation and reproductive traits. V

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## POULTRY

# Are "Complete" Poultry Rations Coming?

ANY chicken or turkey could balance its own diet a few years ago, if offered mash and grain free choice, but according to Dr. W. D. Morrison, nutritionist for a leading feed company, that day seems to be gone. Scientists have come up with so many new developments in the way of poultry feeding, that the poultry themselves have been left behind.

Turkeys in Dr. Morrison's experiments astounded him by the choices they made. In offering them both pellets and grain, he found the birds ate anywhere from 20 to 31 per cent of their feed as grain, and the rest as mash during the growing period. The rations they chose to eat had as little as 14 per cent protein, or as much as 21 per cent. When fed pellets that were high in protein, he said that apparently they didn't know or didn't care, that they were getting more protein than they needed.

In other words, those turkeys were wasteful of the nutrients.

Addressing the annual meeting of the Ontario Turkey Growers' Association, Dr. Morrison reported that these results have been born out in tests carried on by other nutritionists.

He referred to tests in which some laying hens, when offered grain free choice, along with a mash, made the grain the biggest part of their diet (up to 65 per cent), while others ate very little grain.

This means, he said, that as more highly specialized rations are developed, poultrymen might find it more profitable to feed what he termed "complete" rations, or rations containing all the nutrients required by the birds, ground up in a single mash. This would end grain-feeding of birds.

Some nutritionists are recommending such rations even now.

However, despite the wastefulness of grain and mash feeding, Dr. Morrison cautioned that he could not give an unqualified recommendation for "complete" rations yet.

In his own tests, the increased cost of grinding all the feed added about 1 cent onto the cost of each pound of gain made by the birds, and this was not fully repaid.

Despite this, he reported that there were other factors helping to offset this added expense, and it might be that for some growers the extra cost would be well repaid.

For instance, uniformity of finish has been a problem with turkeys, and when they take their choice at the feed hoppers, some birds will eat more corn and put on a better finish than others. If a complete ration gives a more uniform finish, and this earns a premium price when the birds are sold, the cost might be repaid.

Medication in feeds is a factor too, for drugs play an essential part in the turkey program. In fact, feed being sold with a drug to control a disease must, according to government regulations, be fed as the sole ration. Although this is not necessary with preventive types of feeds, Dr. Mor-

ison suggested that a drug such as that used to control blackhead, should be taken by the birds at the specified levels. When birds were balancing their own ration, he was convinced that some would get too little, others too much, and their growth would suffer as a consequence.

He said labor was another factor, pointing out that a single ration can be more easily handled than two or three component feeds for the ration.

Dr. Morrison concluded: When the added cost of grinding feed for complete rations is offset by greater feed efficiency, by greater uniformity of size and finish of birds, and by more accuracy in medication, then these rations will become very important. ✓


## Brooding Hints

A 12' by 12' brooding house should not contain over 300 chicks. There should be at least 3 troughs,

18" in length, and two 1-gallon water founts for every 100 chicks. Brooder houses require some warmth under the hovers, but only enough so the birds won't become chilled. Too much is as bad as too little. ✓

## Laying Nests

TO reduce the number of broken and soiled eggs, adequate nesting space should be provided. There should be one individual nest for every 4 or 5 birds, or for every 3 or 4 birds if trap nests are used. If you have community nesting, supply two 2' by 5' units for every 100 birds. ✓



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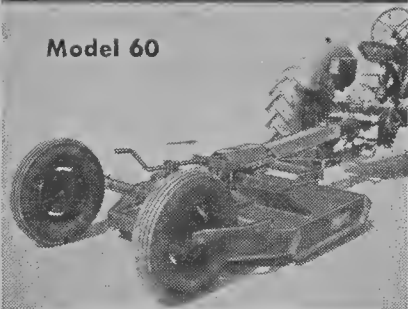
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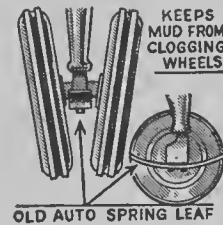


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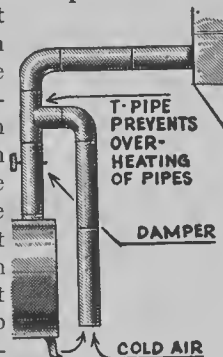
### Mudguard for Tractor

A short leaf from an auto spring will keep the mud from accumulating between the front wheels of the tractor. Drill a couple of holes for bolts in the auto spring, and then mount it between the tractor wheels as illustrated. It will save a lot of trouble.—G.M.E., Alta.



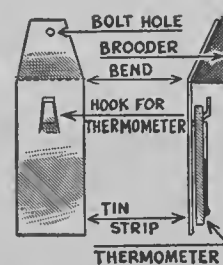
### To Cool Pipes

To prevent stove pipes from overheating, take a T-pipe and install it as shown in the sketch. In this way, the damper can be closed without interfering with the cold air that is drawn up through the T-pipe. This prevents a lot of heat going up the chimney, especially if the stove is close to it.—G.W., Man.



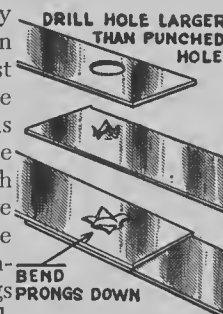
### Brooder Thermometer

I would like to pass on a helpful hint for keeping the brooder thermometer from revolving and not giving a true temperature. A small strap of tin, hanging down from the lip of the hover, with the thermometer hanging on the inside of it, facing the stove, will hold it steady and give a correct temperature. The chicks don't bother with it so much this way.—L.W.T., Sask.



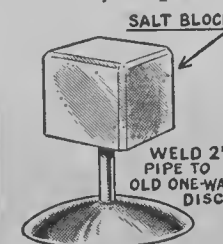
### Joining Metal Strips

Two light metal strips can be joined easily without rivets in this manner. First drill a 3/16" hole in one piece, as shown. Then take a pointed punch or nail and drive it through the other strip, forming four prongs down in the metal. Now lay the two together, so that the prongs pass through the drilled hole, and bend the prongs flat, as in the bottom sketch.—H.E.F., Tex.



### Salt Holder

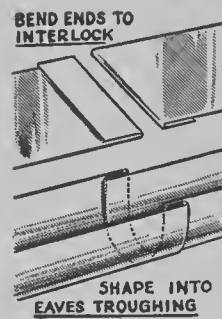
A very simple and handy rig, which can save your salt blocks from getting wet and muddy, can be made with a discarded disk and a piece of piping. Lay a one-way disk on the ground and weld a length of 2" pipe to it, as shown in the diagram. Flatten



out the upper end of the pipe to form a spike, which will penetrate the salt blocks and hold them securely.—E.M.T., Alta.

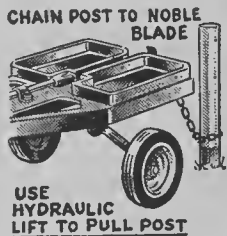
### Eaves Trough Joints

If you are making your own eaves troughs, using flat metal flashing (8" wide), you can join the sections together without rivets, and yet the joints will be watertight. Simply bend back 3" of the end of each strip before shaping the trough (see upper sketch), and then slip one section into the other as indicated. The right-hand section, with the fold underneath, goes on top of the left-hand section, with the bent ends interlocking.—H.E.F., Tex.



### Pulling Posts

You can make the pulling of posts a lot easier if you use your tractor and a Noble blade. Back the blade against the post, and then attach a chain to the lowest point possible on the post. Secure the other end of the chain to the grab hook on the blade. This enables you to use hydraulic power to lift the post quickly and simply.—J.E.H., Alta.



### Knuckle Saver

It's easy to scrape and bruise your knuckles when pushing hand trucks through doorways or in tight spots. It's also easy to prevent it. Take two pieces of steel strap, and curve them so there's enough room for your hands to slip in between the straps and the truck handles, then mount the straps with screws or rivets on the truck handles, and let them take the scrapes and bumps.—H.M., Pa.

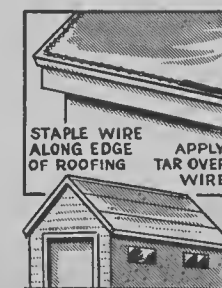


### Joining Boards

When joining boards together at a right angle, and a drill isn't available, just flatten the ends of the nails and drive them into the wood so that they cut across the grain. This will usually prevent the ends of the boards from splitting.—G.W., Man.

### Secure Roofing

To prevent the wind from lifting and tearing roll roofing from a building, do as follows. Tar the seams of the roofing after they are laid flat. Fasten the outside edges with ordinary baling wire and staples, to stop the wind from getting underneath the roofing (see sketch). If the wire is stapled down firmly every 3" or 4", and then tarred over, it will give a good strong finish.—G.C.R., Alta.





## FARM BUILDINGS

### Clean Living Makes Better Milk

**A**NATIONAL code for milk production, issued by the National Dairy Council of Canada, serves as a handy guide for the dairy farmer and the plant operator. The standards set are intended as a minimum, and some farmers may find that they are already doing better than the code suggests.

In the section on dairy barns, the code points out that dairy barns and milking parlors should be built and situated so as to prevent contamination of the milk. The surroundings should be free from dirt, rubbish, animal or vegetable waste, and well drained.

There should be sufficient light in the milking section of the barn so that all services and working areas are plainly visible. Floors and floor gutters should be watertight, and the gutters of ample depth and width. Feed alleys need protection from washings or drainage from other parts of the barn floor. If there is overhead storage, there should be a dust-proof ceiling.

Cleanliness is most important at all times in barns and yards. Walls and ceilings of barns should be in good repair, and either whitewashed or painted as often as necessary. Bedding should be fresh, clean and dry, as well as absorbent and free of excess dust. Manure and litter accumulated during winter in loose housing should be removed in the spring.

Hogs and fowl should be kept out of the milking barn.

Grading and drainage in the cow yard will make it possible to avoid standing pools of water and accumulated organic waste. A hard surface is best for barn and stock tank approaches. V

### Feedlot Planning Saves Time and Labor

**I**N these days of high labor costs, the old saying "many hands make light work" could be changed to "a little planning makes less work." This is particularly true in feedlot management, where a few time- and labor-saving devices can spell the difference between profit and loss.

The feedlot of Tony Van Wyk, near Bassano, Alta., is divided into four sections (two pens per section) by north-south and east-west alleyways, which bisect each other at the center of the lot. Fences and feed bunks at this "crossroads" have been cut back diagonally to enable feed wagons to maneuver the turns without a break in the unloading operations. Also here is the well and electrically powered pump that supplies the four water troughs of the feedlot. Pump, motor, and a propane-fired water heating unit are located underground.

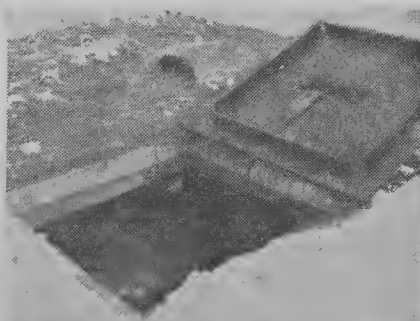
To make sure cattle won't nose aside the gate bars and escape from the pens, Tony has devised a wooden latch which fits into a notch on the end of each bar, where it pokes through the outside wall of the lot. Incidentally, when he built this wall, Tony left about a foot of open space between the bottom of the boards and the ground to stop the air turbulence that causes snow to pile in drifts. It also prevents manure from stacking up on the inside and forcing the wall out of line.—C.V.F. V



*High lip on outer side of feed bunks keeps the feed off the alley floors.*



*Diagonally cut walls and feed bunks make handling feed unloaders easier.*



*Steel lid at intersection of the alleys gives access to pump room and well.*



*This is one of the gate bar locking devices on the outside of the wall.*

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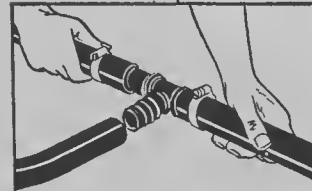
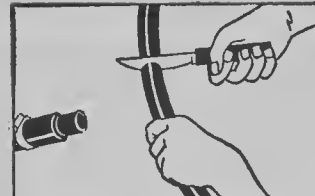
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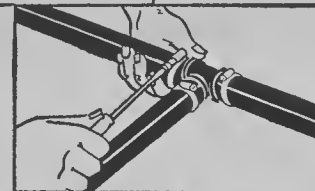
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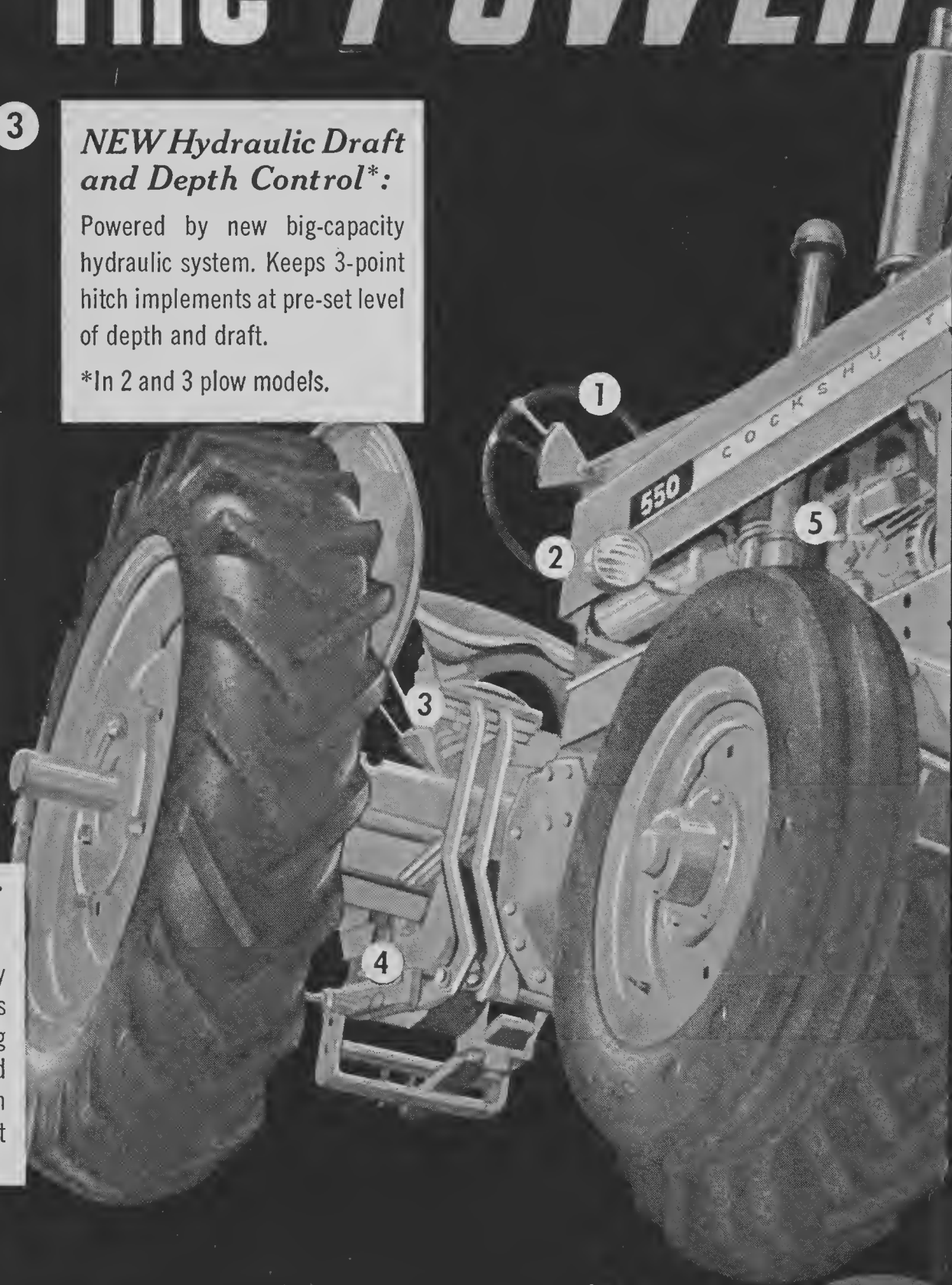
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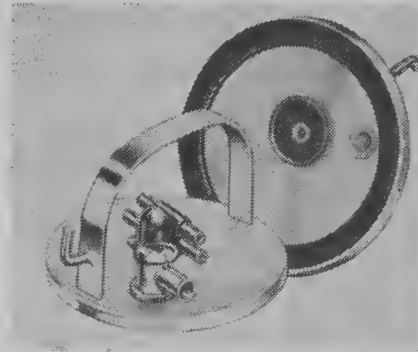
**CANADA CREOSOTING  
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**"GUIDEPOSTS," page 8, helps you plan what you produce.**



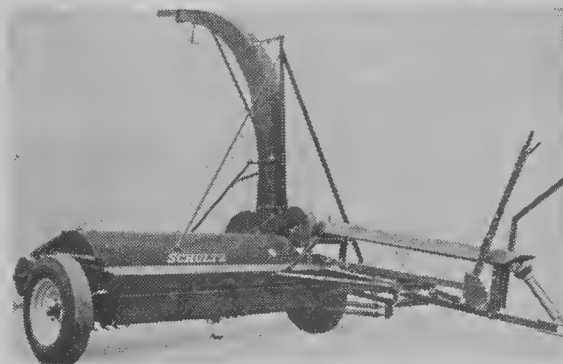
## MILK PAIL COVER

This cover for a pail type milker features the removal of all operating parts from the cover, and a baffle to prevent milk from entering the stanchion tube. It is said to have no crevices where bacteria can multiply, and the milk cock seals positively and, like the check valve chamber, is easy to clean. (De Laval Company) (210) ✓



## FORAGE HARVESTER

An offset, swinging drawbar permits this harvester to work in standing crops without trampling them, and to work closer to orchard trees, fences and other obstructions. Heat-treated hay knives are said to give uniform cutting and shredding, in-



For further information about any item mentioned in "What's New," write to WHAT'S NEW Department, The Country Guide, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 12, Man., giving the key number shown at the end of each item, as—(17).

Continued from page 17

## EASING THE LIVESTOCK LOAD

placed in storage. This may involve more or less hand work, depending upon how well we make use of mechanical devices. Once in storage, we have to start all over again and take these materials out, a little at a time. If it is grain, we shovel it, grind it, mix it and maybe shovel it again two or three times before it is finally in the feed bunks and mangers. If it is hay or straw, we may have to fork it two or three times before it is in a position to be eaten or used for bedding.

After this is all done, we have to think of getting rid of the waste products, and handling products such as milk.

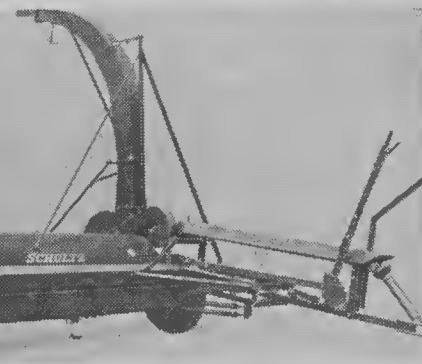
**M**UCH of the ordinary equipment in use on most farms today can be easily adapted to solve many materials handling problems. In addition, there is specialized equipment to make toil easier and quicker in the farmyard. Considerable thought and planning is necessary to put them to efficient use. Where the herd size is large enough, the additional cost of

egrated into one operation with loading through the auger and blower. Can also be used as a basic chopping unit. (L. H. Schultz Manufacturing Co.) (211) ✓



## VERSATILE TRACTOR

This four-wheel drive, four-wheel steer tractor, the "Crab," is designed to give 45 per cent more drawbar pull than the conventional tractor, and to have front-wheel steer, front and rear steer, or oblique steer. The transmission permits the tractor to reverse without stopping or shifting gears. The seat turns through 360°. (Napco Industries Inc.) (212) ✓



mechanization will result in a reduction of operating costs through higher production. We must, however, use machinery efficiently or our operating costs may increase. Generally speaking, the larger livestock enterprise can support more complete mechanization. This does not mean, however, that the smaller operator should not consider any degree of mechanization.

There is no standard set of equipment which will do for all or even most situations. Each one must be individually planned. There are four simple rules we must keep in mind when we consider mechanizing for materials handling:

1. Move the material as little as possible or not at all; e.g. self-feed. Animals have much more time to feed themselves than we have to feed them.
2. Move as large an amount as practical at one time. Why use a hand fork when you can handle a dozen times that amount at once with a tractor mounted one?



3. Make it flow continually. A small, inexpensive electric motor can handle a lot of grain in a short time by auger or flight conveyor, and is much easier than using a shovel.
4. Condense it. Reduce the bulk and weight for easy handling; for example, baled hay.

Now let's take a closer look at these rules. First, move the material as little as possible. There's no handling at all if you leave bales in the field after the final cutting. Cattle rip the bales open themselves and waste can be burned or spread with a harrow. There's no manure handling problem either, and it's ideal where they can be fed on less productive soil.

Hay stored in self-feeders will allow the animals to feed themselves. A giant self-feeder with a capacity of 45 tons may be built with poles 30 feet high and snow fencing material. The poles are spaced at 10-foot intervals, in a circle, and the snow fencing is placed around the poles. Gates at the bottom are raised to let the animals feed themselves. Inside the self-feeder, a cone is placed on the ground to divert the hay to the circumference of the feeder.

On the other hand, why not put smaller self-feeders on wheels? Then move them to the barn for filling. It's easier than pitching it onto a wagon, and then forking or shoveling it into a stationary feed rack.

Grinding grains directly into self-feeders will reduce the number of times you handle feed after it is ground.

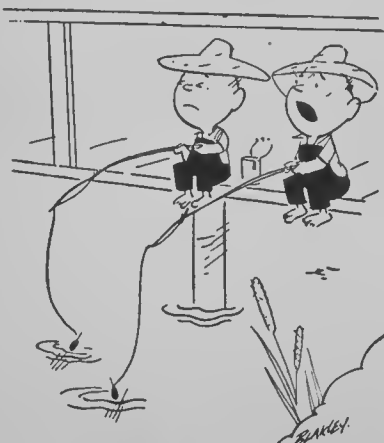
There is little or no handling necessary when silage is fed directly from a self-feeding trench silo.

In handling water, remember the same basic rule. Don't move it. Provide automatic watering by replacing windmills with electric motors or gasoline engines.

For the dairyman, glass pipelines will carry the milk from milking machines to the milk house, and on to the milk cooler.

With regard to moving larger amounts of materials, a dual-purpose manure spreader, which doubles as a forage wagon, will be advantageous. With three to four-ton capacity this means fewer trips to the field.

**I**N considering ways and means of making flow continuous we should not forget the cheapest and simplest device of all, the gravity system. This means using an overhead hopper with a gate and spout at the bottom. It



"Boy—it's going to be tough getting back into the old classroom grind again on Monday."

requires no power, except to elevate the material to start with, and will probably have more application than any other device we could name. A simple pipe may be used to move feed by gravity from an overhead bin to self-feeders.

Hay put up in pellets for storing and handling like grain may be just around the corner, but for now baling and chopping are the most practical ways to condense it.

We should not forget the possibilities of a fork or bucket on the front end of a light tractor. For moving silage, roughage, concentrate or manure they will save no end of shoveling or forking.

These basic methods of materials handling will help us do farmwork more easily, more efficiently and more productively. Stand back and take a long look at *your* materials handling problems, always keeping these four principles in mind:

1. Don't move it.
2. Handle larger amounts.
3. Make the flow continuous.
4. Condense it.

Much equipment is on the market at the present time, which will enable us to facilitate materials handling. It can be adapted to the size of farm and the preference of the farmer. It is not perfect yet nor 100 per cent foolproof, but the same problem existed with tractors 10 to 20 years ago. However, the farmer has now accepted the tractor as an essential machine for field work.

Let's now consider livestock buildings. Only recently have farm buildings come to be regarded with the same importance as the machinery—equipment to be used for working, earning, increasing profits and performing time- and labor-saving chores for the farmer.

Buildings such as beef cattle shelters, hog farrowing houses, poultry houses and dairy cattle barns are functionally designed, taking into account automatic feeding and watering equipment, temperature and humidity controls.

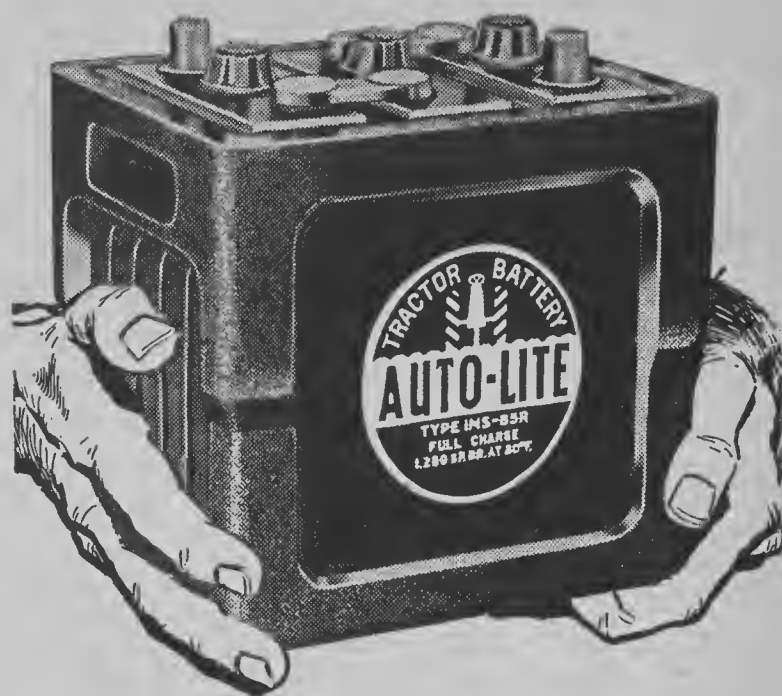
Interior arrangements, such as farrowing pens, calving pens, resting and feeding arrangements have been worked out with most efficient use of the buildings from a cost and labor saving viewpoint.

Now, how and where do we start with our own particular farm? Look at the situation as to arrangement of buildings and equipment. Think about the problem as you do your chores; where you walk, what you carry, how much you lift, the time you spend. You'll see places where something has to be done.

Then make an overall plan aiming at the final system you want, keeping in mind the points we have discussed. The final step is to start working toward your goal.

Mechanization in the farmyard is one phase of agriculture going through more changes and more improvements today than any other single phase of the farm mechanization picture. It is a challenge to the agrologist, the engineer and the farmer to take a second look at livestock feeding methods, and to consider the possibilities for reducing work time and the hard grueling labor in and around the farmyard. ✓

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## EAGLE'S KINGDOM

the eyrie, expecting her to rise and take the food from him in mid-air. She would carry it down and feather it and offer it to their young while he returned to the hunt. But no one came, and then he remembered.

He aimed himself and glided for the nest.

Wind hissed in his wings as he spread them for landing. He threw out his feet. The nest grew larger—larger—rushing up at him—crash, and he was there. Springy fir branches received the weight of his arrival. He folded his wings and turned toward his son and his daughter.

The nest, two thousand feet above sea level, had been built upon, year after year, and constantly repaired. It was a bulky cartload of firewood, securely lodged here on the inaccessible cliffside under an overhang, facing north, and at its broadest, it was six feet across. Big fir branches had been used in the foundations, then heather, fern, grass, moss—but the cup for the eggs was quite small and lined with woodrush. At the edges, this rush was still green, but the heat of incubation and then of the nestlings themselves had dried it in the middle part to brown.

Here the two awkward eaglets, all beak and skull, clamored for food. They still had some of their white down, but the first feathers were pressing through. Luckily, they were beyond the brooding stage. Earlier, he and his wife had had to shield them from snow.

These two had been hatched, as usual, from differently marked eggs, one always more blotched than the other. Those shells were gone, but the parent birds still retained an ad-dled egg that tumbled about under the nestlings and was discolored by now. They had not quite liked to cast it out, in case.

Apart from this, the nest, even without the mother, was perfectly clean. It was not whitewashed, as are the ledges of sea birds; and nearly all bones of hare, heron, goose and grouse, of vole and roe deer, had been either swallowed or thrown out.

The eagle stripped the ptarmigan and dropped it for his youngsters. He was hungry and the meat gave edge to his appetite as he prepared it for them, but he took none for himself.

He paused a moment at the edge of the cold rock before plunging once more into the abyss. There was blood on the yellow scales of his feet. He turned the fearful headlights of his eyes upon the misty solitudes below.

He looked, he spread gigantic wings, and he was off.

ALL that day he hunted, but by sundown the eaglets were hungrier than ever. If he could not fill them, famine would drive them from the nest too soon. They would fall, and die in the fall, or else be picked up on the sward below by fox or man.

Next day he redoubled his efforts, returning often to places which had yielded results before; but hunting was lean.

The only thing he himself had to eat in three days was one half-grown water rat that he took on the lake shore and devoured where he killed it, among boulders and turf sprinkled with wild flowers. He held the rat with one trousered leg, hunching his wings over his prey, a lonely killer with his warm meat. He ate rapidly, and every now and then threw a fierce stare round him for danger. It was rank meat and soon over. Still hungry, he wiped his beak and took to the air again.

A hare now, would feed them all. There were more hares than there used to be before the rabbits went; but today not one was to be seen. A leveret would do, of course, but it was a big jack hare he wanted.

And then he saw one—

Controlled eagerness shot through all his body. Here was food for the whole family. Everything depended upon his skill.

THE hare did not know he had been seen. He was running loosely over the turf, covering more ground than you might think until you looked at the space between his footprints. And he was not alarmed, for he ran with his ears up. He was a big biscuit-colored creature with black points. When he had to cross an open place that had a path in it, he laid his ears down flat on his back and crouch-ran across to the bracken and whin on the other side.

The eagle saw he must be careful or he would lose his quarry there among so much cover. As he followed he kept his shadow well away, but there was a partridge he never noticed, and his shadow slid over her. She chirred her alarm and rocketed into cover.

The hare was alerted. He froze. His ears dropped, then popped up again. He lifted his head and glanced all round. Suddenly he bolted.

Making up his mind in a lightning flash, the eagle struck. At the same instant, the hare bounded fifteen feet from almost beneath him and was away. Great wings beat up the dust and, with dust in his nostrils, the eagle rose again in a fine sweep and returned to the attack.

The hare was now running at top speed.

Again the bird struck, and again the hare jinked and made for cover.

The eagle dived to cut off his escape, harrying his quarry back to the open where he could run it down. He was in deadly earnest. He was not hunting now for mere blood or practice, or even just a pleasant meal. He had young to feed, and he was desperate for meat.

Hunter and hunted raced across the country. The eagle, gaining on the hare, could hear the very thud of its leaping, and he struck again. Again his quarry dodged, and his claws closed on air.

The hare was still in his first burst of speed when it seemed his heart must give out before ever the eagle

(Please turn to page 50)

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touched him, so he maintained distance between them, and every time he swerved, he gained a few yards.

They were drawing toward the thick cover that hid a stream. If the hare could get into those brambles, under all that alder and sloe, he would escape.

He made a last bid for life, speeding straight toward it without dodging, with the eagle catching him up.

The bird put forth all his might. There was the hare just before and below him. He could see nothing else. The ground was blurred away. Beak and claws opened to strike. He dived.

At the last second, something made him swing to the right. At the same moment the hare swerved also, this time straight into death. The hunter's sixth sense had rung true.

Eagle and hare joined at speed into one lump, and in a skid of earth and gravel came to a stop. The bird felt the big live hare in his grasp. He felt it die.

He rested a moment, hooded over his prey, enjoying breath and victory. His kill lay beneath him with tongue

lolling, and showing a lot of white belly. The hare was wet with blood. One eyeball, hanging out, was magnifying the fur beneath it, like a reading glass.

The eagle stood upon his prey as the hunter has always stood upon the vanquished, and glanced about him with a wild and haughty look.

WHEN he was certain the hare was dead, he changed his grip of it and rose. It felt beautifully heavy. He had to work hard to get up into the air, and then he turned for home.

From more than a mile away he saw that his wife was back, and at half a mile he saw that she was damaged, so she too would need feeding for a time, *but she was back.*

He doubled his speed and reached the eyrie.

The she-eagle was thin, and she was still bleeding. Wherever she trod, she left blood, for she had lost half a foot in a trap; but she was able to rip the skin from the hare and feed her brood. Then she and he together ate what was left. V

*Continued from page 14*

## FARM LAYING FLOCK

egg market went soft for a few weeks, he tried the method on his own flock and it worked. He also finds new ideas while visiting other poultry farms, for he fully expects that he will have to bring his costs still lower in the future to maintain his profit margin.

Curtis himself is one who likes some of those old-fashioned values that have gone along with farming in the past. Splashing together as a family in the nearby river, after a day's work in the heat of August, is one of them. Skat-

ing on the rink in their farmyard is another. He likes to see his children with calves to brush, or chickens to raise. And he likes to spend time himself in the laying pens, keeping a close eye on the birds, so he will spot trouble almost before it appears.

He doesn't get carried away with that "way-of-life" thinking about farming, either. If the dollars don't come in fast enough, he knows he will lose his farm and all that it represents.

That's why he bases his farming program on facts, not fancy.

CURTIS started into hens in 1949, when he converted the old hay barn into laying pens, putting windows on the south and west sides of the building, and equipping pens on two floors.

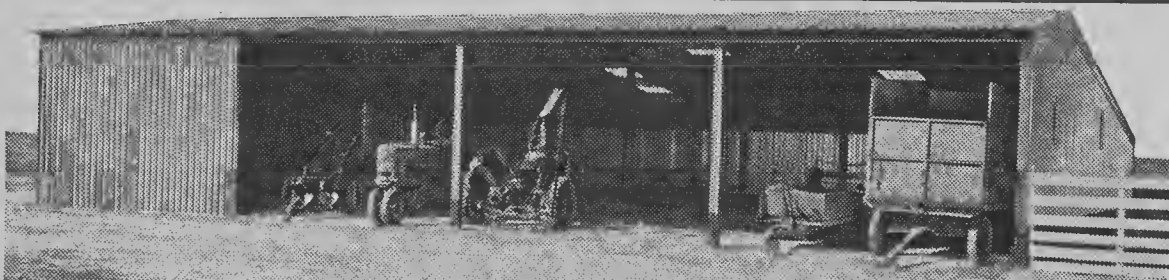
At first the two pens were carried only half way back across the barn, from the south side, so they each measured 42 by 21 feet. Once he was sure he could handle hens successfully, he doubled the size of both pens by extending them right across the barn. They now accommodate about 750 hens each.

In setting up his accounts, he listed his overhead for buildings at about a dollar per bird, but his out-of-pocket expenses were actually less than that.

The building is lacking in frills. There are no air ducts or fans sucking out stale air. A few cracks around the windows let in fresh air, and an open door leading into the main body of the barn lets it out.

Poultry expert John Walker of the Ontario Agricultural College says it is an excellent example of how skilful management can compensate for lack of specialized equipment.

One secret, says Professor Walker, is that Curtis doesn't build up a deep litter. He has dropping pits with roosts double-decked above them, in the



A spacious 48' x 64' Stran-Master provides machinery storage.

## Stran-Master all-steel pole-barn

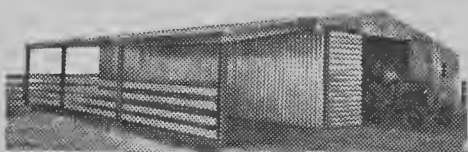
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**SASKATCHEWAN**  
Roy Wright, Ltd., Regina (Phone Jo 9-8858)



[Guide photo

*Litter is thrown down holes such as this, to the stable below, to be used as bedding for cattle. This reduces cost.*

pens, and the remaining floor area is cleaned out and freshly bedded every second day. Without this care, humidity in the pens would build up, and bring with it that common flock problem of respiratory disease.

Curtis has successfully demonstrated how different enterprises in a mixed farm program can dovetail together. The stable where his beef cattle are housed is below the laying pens. He has trap doors in each laying pen, so he can fork the litter down to the stable below. The cattle have to be bedded anyway, so he charges the labor to the beef operation, rather than to the poultry.

Equipment in the Curtis barn is the simplest kind available. He finds the hanging feeders (3 per 100 birds as recommended by experts) completely satisfactory. He has the water supply under pressure. The dropping pits are cleaned out every 3 months in winter, and in the summer, whenever an odor becomes noticeable.

His feeding program includes some interesting ideas too. At about 6 p.m. in winter, just before the lights go out in the pens, he puts enough mash into the feeders to last the birds all the next day. This has the obvious advantage of having ample feed available early in the morning. At noon, he provides fleshing pellets for the birds. He feeds scratch grains about 4 p.m. right in the feeders. "Why throw clean feed on the floor?" he asks.

He favors community nests, and gathers the eggs three times a day. This frequency reduces breakage and

gets the eggs down into his cool cellar so they won't deteriorate in quality.

He uses wire baskets and a washing solution to clean his eggs, and tries to keep any particularly dirty eggs at the top of the basket when he is gathering, so he can rub them by hand. He hopes to buy a modest-priced washer before too long. Eggs are shipped twice a week to the local grading station. The percentage of B, C, and cracked eggs has been only 2.9 of the total.

**THESE** figures are accurate too, for Curtis, in his usual fashion, is taking advantage of one of the newest services available to Ontario poultrymen.

Toward the end of 1956, the poultry husbandry and agricultural economics departments at the O.A.C. undertook to work jointly with farm poultrymen across Ontario, to determine their costs of production. Curtis was one of the first to join up. He agreed to keep records of his operation, and to make them available to Earl Hunt who is in charge of the project. The records are maintained on a confidential basis. In return for the records, the co-operators get an accurate cost-accounting service.

The first year's results of the project, in which 75 flocks are included, will soon be made known, and Hunt told The Country Guide that any Ontario poultryman who would like to enroll his flock in the project, and gain this cost-accounting service, should get in touch with him. Curtis for one, will vouch for its value.

**WITH** size ranked as such an important characteristic of farm enterprises today, we asked Mr. Curtis, "Why don't you increase the size of your flock?"

"I have considered it," he admitted, "but my 1,500 hens are just about all I can handle without extra help. Any further expansion would mean I'd have to start paying out money for labor-saving machines. I'd probably have to build a new poultry house. If I went to that expense, I'd have to build it big enough to handle about 10,000 hens, and hire an extra man to look after it to get my costs per dozen back down to where they are now. I don't want that kind of an operation."

According to Curtis, the mistake most people make with their flocks is in expecting too much from them. "I just want the hens to pay the household expenses. My 1,500 hens will do that nicely."

Mr. Curtis, who farms about 200 acres of land, has 30 beef cows, and sells baby beeves out of the stable each spring. He's a grassland enthusiast, and along with his brother who is on a neighboring farm, has been developing a feed program based on improved grasses and clovers.

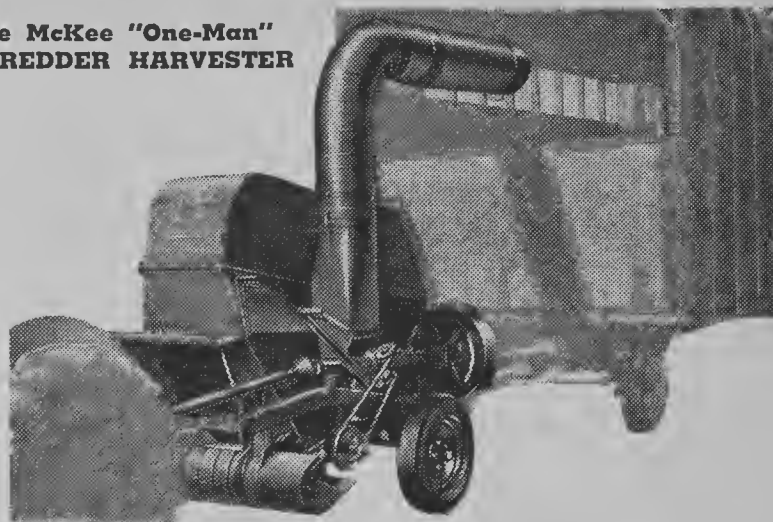
He also plans to expand his hog enterprise by building a new hog pen, so he can handle 30 or so sows.

He intends to adapt his new swine building to his mixed farming program. He requires a place where he can raise pullets, and he plans to provide such a location above the hog pens by putting a hip roof on the building. The same accommodation can be used by the youngsters in other seasons for such things as 4-H poultry projects.

The Curtis approach is, in fact, a refreshing combination of the old and

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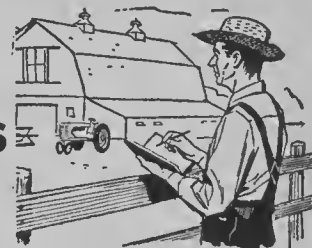
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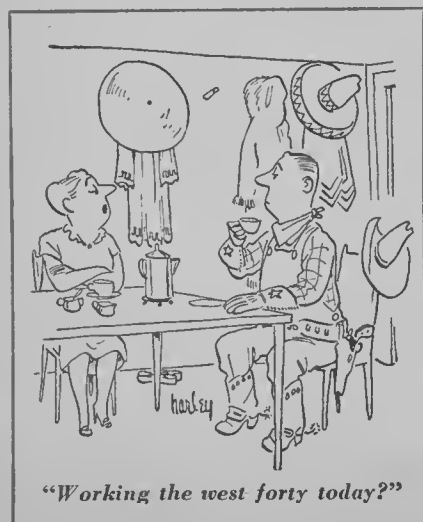
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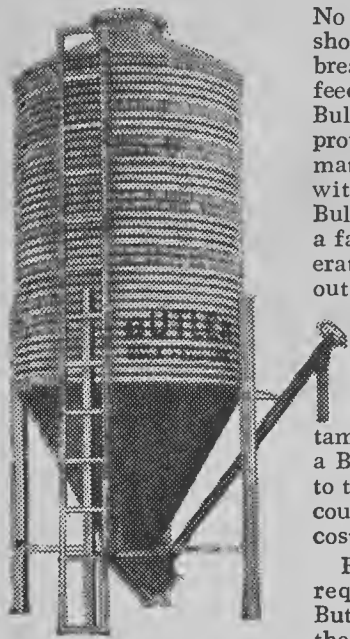
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the new. It's the closest thing you'll find to a modern family farm.

The way George Curtis sees it, there is plenty of opportunity today for the mixed farm like his own. Maybe, he says, the time will come when a 10,000-hen flock will be required, if a person is to compete in the poultry industry. But he adds, that maybe his boys will be interested in getting into farming by that time. Then, he might think of splitting off the poultry enterprise and making a single unit of it. In the meantime, his poultry program, with 1,500 hens, is just about right.

**THIS** is a heartening story for farmers with a liking for hens, and there is plenty of other evidence to support the idea that the farm flock has a future.

Prof. Ross Cavers, who is head of the Department of Poultry Husbandry, Ontario Agricultural College, said recently that, despite the great

amount of publicity which broilers and turkeys are receiving, eggs and the by-products of egg production still make up four-fifths of Canada's poultry industry.

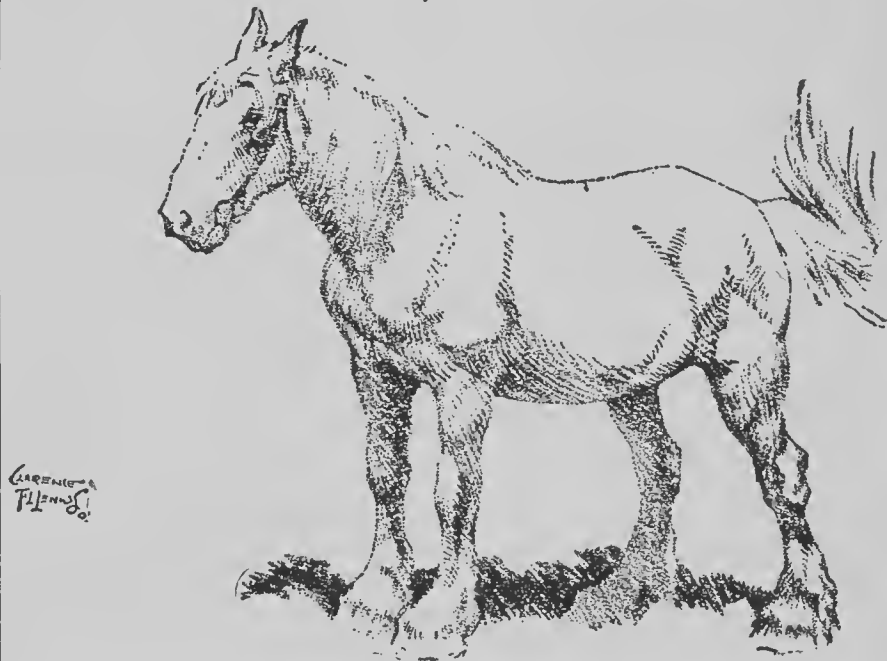
In addressing the annual convention of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in Montreal, he went on to call the farm flock—the one of 300 to 1,000 hens—the most important in terms of egg production in most parts of Canada.

However, the flock that is rapidly being displaced today, as he sees it, is the inefficient small one which can't maintain production during the severe winter months, and which turns out a large proportion of low grade eggs in warm weather. This kind of flock accounts for about half of Canada's present egg production.

He says that commercial flocks, and farm flocks operated with a keen eye to costs and returns, are growing steadily in importance at their expense. V

## Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 73 in a series—by CLARENCE TILLENIUS



**I**N the many letters that come to me asking for information, this question often appears: "How should I draw such and such an animal?" I cannot often spare time to reply to these queries; in any case, such a question cannot be answered in one letter or even in twenty, there is so much to be learned. A similar question is: "How can I make a drawing look real?" What they mean here, I think, is, "How can I draw the animal's so as to express its form?" This also is not an easy question to answer, except with the one word that can cover 99 per cent of all queries on how to draw: *practice, practice, practice, and more practice!*

However, to study form we can once more go back to the horse, a white horse, because we are studying form alone and color would only distract you. The accompanying crayon study is of a white horse in strong sunlight. First of all, the proportions of the horse are determined by the skeleton under his hide. If he is in good flesh, the fat and muscles under the skin will give rounded shapes where they catch the light. If he is thin, shapes will be sharp, angular. If

just "skin and bones," you will, in effect, be drawing a skeleton with skin stretched over it. But the skeleton is always an animal's framework. You *must* study it in order to understand the construction.

The muscles bulge as they contract (as when a limb is pulled forward) and flatten out again as they slacken. Study this by bending and straightening your arm. These shapes are easily studied on a white horse or cow, preferably a lazy one. Draw the animal from different angles standing still until you have memorized the shapes in those positions. Pay particular attention to the shape of the light and shade of every bulge and hollow, and make your pencil strokes alter direction to express these forms. Many thick volumes have been written on the study of the skeleton alone, so you see the subject can hardly be dealt with in a few sentences. However, this information should be a little help to you.

(Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors series is available in book form from The Country Guide, Winnipeg. Price post-paid \$1.00.) V



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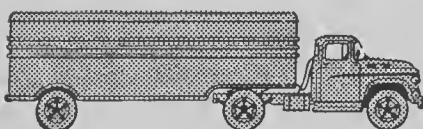
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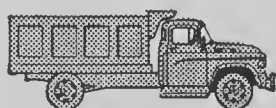
# DODGE

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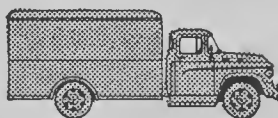
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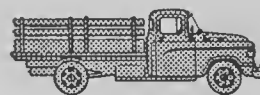
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## WILDFIRE

unhook the bar, trying to open and shut it without getting off the horse, but Blackie was stolid and unresponsive and wouldn't turn right. Dane had to drop the gate. The other horses were beginning to gather and he was afraid they would get out.

"Blackie! You stupid, clumsy old thing!" He slid to the ground and got the gate shut as the first of the other horses crowded around. The new young colts stayed close by the mares, leggy, wobble-kneed and curious, while the yearlings cautiously waited a little back.

Dane dropped Blackie's reins and walked warily toward them. Once he had almost touched the sorrel before it had turned to run, maybe today he could succeed. As young colts none of these yearlings had been afraid of him, but a winter in pasture while Dane was busy with school and chores had made him a stranger.

He stalked them carefully, talking softly, easily. Some of his love for horses was communicated to them and they stood quietly.

"All right now, beauty," Dane approached the sorrel. "Saladin... that's a good name. There's a wild look in your eye, but we're pals, you and I! Once I was a Moorish chieftain, and you were my proud charger carrying me into battle..." The sorrel snorted and was ready to run.

"What's the matter, boy? I won't hurt you... come on now." Dane stood still, but his voice went on, soothing, "No, maybe I wasn't a Moorish chieftain after all. We read about Big Bear today, and the Riel Rebellion. Maybe I was Big Bear and you were my pony, better than all the other horses. Big Bear was a chief... know that, colt? A big chief, too, boss of all the tribe... wasn't that sumpin'? He wouldn't have fought against the Great White Mother, but he thought the white men were taking his buffalo, his right to hunt. They were too. They hanged him, colt, maybe sold his horses. No, I guess I wasn't Big Bear. Whoever I was, you were there, colt. Maybe I was Sir Gawain, looking for the Holy Grail... but his horse was white. Well, maybe you were white once, in your pre-existence, that's why your mane and tail are still white... silver really. You're a beauty, colt. If only you were old enough to ride. I'll have to tame you this summer, just a little at a time, then you'll really be my horse..."

AS he spoke, Dane moved forward until he was almost touching the colt who waited, trembling a little, but no longer afraid.

"I'll bring you a carrot tomorrow, colt... it's Saturday and I'll have to clean the root cellar. Mom won't care if I swipe a carrot for you... maybe two carrots. A few carrots and your coat will really shine. There now, boy, a little more, just a little more and I can touch your neck, scratch your ear... you'd like that, wouldn't you? I'll have to name you for keeps, soon... none of this "Saladin" and play

names like that. You'll have a name all your own, a name to suit you..."

The colt threw up his head and stepped back.

"Now, don't spook off... just a bit more and I could have petted you... easy, boy, ea-ea-sy..."

"Dane! Da-a-a-ne!"

The boy and the colt were both startled. Dane jumped and looked toward home, and the colt was gone in a flash at his startled gesture.

"Gosh! Why did Dad call just then!" Dane was disgusted. "Just when we almost had made friends again. Never mind, boy, I'll come back and see you tomorrow, as soon as the chores are done."

Blackie had wandered off a little, chopping grass with his dulled and yellowed teeth. Dane followed and picked up the reins, jerking them a little in his disappointment. "Stupid old nag! If I only had a decent horse... you're too slow to catch cold!" He pulled the reluctant horse over to a big stone so he could climb up on the sway back. Blackie was bound to have another bite of grass and he stepped over and reached out his neck.

"Ow-w-Ouch! Get off my foot, you clumsy ox!! Ow-ow-w!" Dane pushed against Blackie, but the horse wouldn't move. He beat with his fists against the bulging barrel that was Blackie's belly, but still the stubborn old thing stood, firm as a rock, intent on the clump of grass he was methodically chopping off.

Dane was close to tears, in fact one or two drops found their way down the freckled cheeks, leaving a pathway in the grime that had accumulated.

Dane was too proud to cry. He jerked at the reins again.

"Dane! Da-a-ane! What's keeping you? Hurry up!"

Blackie finally condescended to lift his foot. He couldn't quite reach the next clump of grass unless he moved.

Dane leaned against the horse and stood on one bare foot while he rubbed the other. It was skinned and



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sore. It sure hurt, but he didn't think it was broken. Maybe if Blackie broke his foot he could stay home from school for awhile. He didn't mind school, really, but there were so many interesting things on a farm. Still, he couldn't do much with a broken foot, and with the weekend coming up maybe it was a good thing his foot was just sore and not broken after all.

"Dane!"

DANE limped over to the rock, leading Blackie, and climbed on. He urged the horse to an awkward trot, and, somehow, in spite of numerous stumblings over his own ungainly feet, the horse finally reached the corral gate where he stopped and heaved a great sigh as though he were about to expire.

Dane slid off and dropped the reins, leaving Blackie to graze again.

"Sorry I'm late, Dad. That clumsy old nag stepped on my foot and wouldn't get off."

Cal looked up briefly from his work on the corral: "Give me a hand with this rail here, Dane. Might as well fix it properly while we're at it."

"What'cha doin' Dad?" Dane lifted the other end of the rail and held it in place while Cal nailed it. "Why the extra rail on the corral? You're sure making it high."

"Have to," Cal answered shortly. "Has to be high to keep the fence-jumping colt in."

"What colt? A colt can't jump this corral. It's plenty high already!"

"That blame sorrel colt can!" Cal exploded. "He's a real wildfire, that one . . . sailed over the gate like a bird!"

"The sorrel? Dad!" Dane almost dropped the rail. "Did you have the sorrel in today?"

"Sure did. Thought I'd start putting halters on the colts, but the sorrel was too much horse . . . an ordinary fence won't hold him, have to make it higher, then we'll have him!"

"Aw-w, Dad! Why'd you start with him? I want to tame him, I almost touched him today, until you hollered and frightened him!"

"Did, eh?" Cal straightened. "Well, he's too wild for you. I want you to leave him alone till I break him to halter. He might hurt you, Dane. I mean it, now!" Cal added, as though he sensed Dane's unspoken protest and forestalled it.

But Dane's thoughts were busy. Maybe tomorrow he could persuade Dad to give him a chance with the colt. He'd almost made friends today, another time the colt would be tamer yet. Dane took the end of another rail, lifting it into place.

WILDFIRE. Maybe that is a good name for the colt. His coat is a blaze of fire . . . lots of spirit, too. He sure is a beauty . . . not another like him in the country . . . must have some Arabian in him, way back, somewhere. There's nothing beautiful in old Nellie, she's just a work horse, slow and steady, no fire and spirit in her . . . but the colt, he's different . . . he's really sumthin' special.

"Dad?"

"Um-m-m! What is it son?"

"Do you suppose the sorrel colt is part Arabian, maybe? He sure is pretty!"



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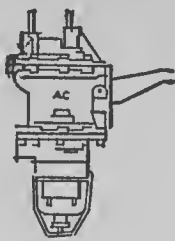
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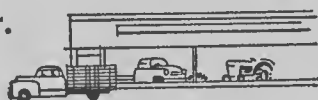


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"Arabian? No, can't be . . . his sire was a purebred, but Nellie isn't anything extra, only a work horse, but a good, steady one. The colt will never pull a plow, though!"

"Then can I have him, Dad, to ride? Please? Blackie's so pokey, and I'm old enough for my own horse, really I am! I'm going on fourteen, Dad! Dad?"

Cal had forgotten he wasn't going to say anything about the colt, and he was a little shaken by Dane's questions.

"Well, I don't know, son," he temporized. "That colt's a lot of horse!"

"But that's what I want, Dad! He'd be just right for me."

"We won't talk about it now, eh? There's work to do . . . have to get this corral fixed, and you'll soon have to go for the cows."

Dane was bursting with talk, but Cal hurried him with the rails, afraid to let him say any more about the colt. "Come on, now, let's have this other rail, and then you'd better get Blackie . . . he's heading for the house, and if he gets into Mother's flowers there'll be heck to pay. The pansies are already up, and she'd rather lose the whole vegetable garden than one tiny little flower!"

Cal pounded in another nail. "There, now, that should hold it," he stood back. The corral was a foot higher now, surely high enough to hold anything. "Even a deer couldn't jump that, so it should hold the colt. Now, you beat it after Blackie and get the cows in. Mom will be wanting her woodbox filled before supper too. Scoot now, boy! Everyone works around this place!" Cal grinned at Dane, a friendly grin, and Dane's heart swelled . . . he and Dad were partners. Dad could see he was getting to be a man—well-ll-l, almost . . . at least Dad depended on him to hold up his end like a man.

Dane caught Blackie near the house and looped the reins over the fence. Blackie stretched himself, leaning against the fence, trying to reach the green of the pansies, and Martha came to the door.

"Hi, Mom, I've got him, he won't get your flowers!" Dane grinned.

"He'd better not, or he'll be a dead horse!" Martha smiled, returning the grin.

"Can I have something to eat, Mom, before I go for the cows?"

"You'll spoil your supper, dear. You should have come straight from school. It's late now, almost supper time!"

"Aw, Mom, please. Just a bite, I'm starved!"

Martha looked at the freckled face and marked the trace of tears. She relented. He was still a small boy, and boys do get hungry. He'd eat like a horse at supper, anyway.

"All right, son, just a bite. There are some cookies in the jar, but just one, mind you," she warned his retreating back as he vanished into the kitchen, his "gee, thanks," trailing behind him.

"He's a good lad, our Dane," she thought, fondly. "He's getting to be quite a help, he's growing up so quickly. I wish Dad would reconsider about the colt. However, if Dad feels we can't afford it, I suppose that's it. I can't help but feel he's wrong, this time, and I don't want Dane hurt."

DANE woke to the muted cadence of raindrops on the roof, the measured "drip, drip, drip," from the eaves. He snuggled back under the covers like a contented kitten. A thought suddenly struck him.

"Darn! A rainy Saturday. Now I can't do anything . . . not even snare gophers. If I had a decent horse I might go riding, but it's no fun riding Blackie. The sorrel colt, now . . . 'Wildfire' . . . he would be frisky and raring to go, specially on a rainy day. Another year and I can really have fun, with Wildfire to ride.

"Dad wanted to get a halter on him today. Maybe he'll change his mind since it's raining . . . if he does, maybe he'll let me try to make friends with the colt. I know I could. I almost did, yesterday, and I could show Dad.

"Wildfire . . . Wildfire . . . what I could do riding him! I'd be all the Indians who ever rode, all the brave warriors, the sheiks of Arabia . . . just another year to wait, just one year. . . ."

"Dane! Breakfast!" Martha's voice stirred him from his reverie. The air in the room was a bit chilly, though, when he sat up, and Dane cuddled into the bedclothes again, just for a minute, to warm himself. "Mom won't mind . . . m-m-m, it's comfy . . . Wildfire . . . my horse, my very own horse . . . I'll ride over the hills like the wind, the silver mane and tail flying."

He could almost hear the colt's feet pounding the earth in an effortless lope, the slender legs stretched out in swift passage. He felt the wind in his face, and sunlight. Now they had wings, no longer touching the earth, but soaring, soaring over the hills, the treetops, right into the clouds, the sorrel colt a part of him. *It was happening, it really was!*

"Dane! Dane! Breakfast. Wake up! I've called you twice!"

The dream dissolved. He was just a small, tousle-headed, freckle-face boy under a patchwork quilt, yet somehow the dream was more real than this. In a minute he'd be back up there in the clouds, riding, soaring. . . .

"Dane! This minute now!"

Reluctantly Dane left the dream. His bare feet touched the cold floor and he hustled into his clothes to hurry down to the warmth of the kitchen.

He was still so much a part of his dream as he clattered into the kitchen that he didn't catch his parents talk. . . . "He should have the colt, Dad." and Cal's reply, ". . . out of the question."

Dane burst into the room like a small cyclone: "Dad! I was riding Wildfire, up in the clouds. It was wonderful!"

Cal looked up from his breakfast: "You were what? Wildfire? Who is Wildfire?"

"The sorrel colt, Dad. I'm going to name him that. I was riding him in my dream, but it was so real, just as if it really happened!"

Martha's eyes were worried as they met Cal's above Dane's head, but Dane didn't notice. He was bouncing with excitement, his words spilling out, "We were going so fast, like the wind . . . over the hills and the



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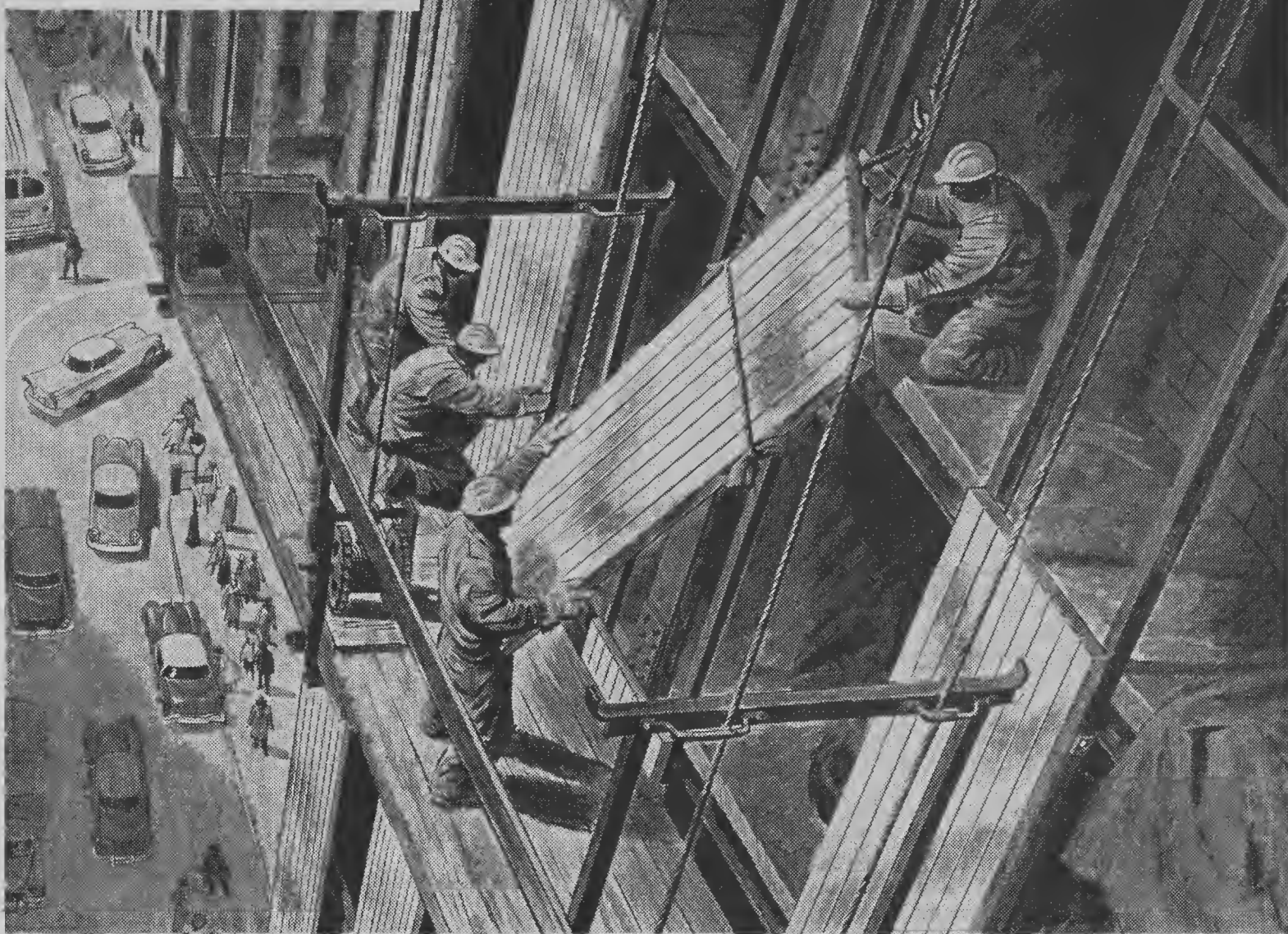
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*Inco has recently published a colourful and beautifully illustrated 32-page booklet about Canada's important nickel industry, entitled "The Exciting Story of Nickel". It is written primarily for Canadian youth by Alan King, but adults will also find it full of interesting information. Just write to Inco for a free copy of this booklet.*



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prairie, 'n we came to a fence, 'n Wildfire jumped it, only he didn't come back to earth, he just went higher, and higher, right up into the sky. The clouds were all around us, and I looked down and saw our house and the barns, and the pasture. It was so plain. Old Blackie didn't even look up, but the other horses did, and whinnied. I guess they wished they could fly, too, but not Blackie, he's too slow!"

MARTHA set a bowl of porridge in front of the boy, and he sloshed cream on it. She forgot to admonish him when he spooned the sugar on his porridge in great scoops. Perhaps she didn't notice. The colt did mean a lot to him, he was counting on it . . . already in his mind the colt was his, a horse grown, fit steed for a warrior, or even a god. Was it fair to let him go on dreaming, not to tell him that Dad was going to get rid of the colt as soon as he could?

But Cal was speaking. "The colt's a fence jumper, an outlaw. Maybe that's why you dreamed of flying, Dane." Cal looked out at the rain which still fell in a gray mist. "I was going to get a halter on the colt today, but I don't suppose there's any sense trying in the rain. Maybe I'd better drive in to town instead." He turned to Martha. "Your list ready, Martha?"

"I may add a few things, and you can mail the garden seed order, I guess." The moment for telling Dane had passed. Martha went on with her work, but her heart wasn't in it. "Dane is entitled to his dreams," she thought. "What will it do to him if he can't have his horse?"

The thought stayed with her all morning. She mulled it over in her mind until she scarcely noticed when the clouds lifted and the sun came out brilliant and clear—a spring sun, bringing the promise of summer.

When she stepped to the door to call Dane for dinner she was surprised by the clean brightness of the day. She stood a moment, marvelling at the continuing miracle of spring, the awakening hopes.

Involuntarily her eyes were drawn to the pasture where the mares grazed and the new colts frisked about on unsteady legs. This was part of the miracle, each spring renewed. Last year the sorrel colt was a leggy new colt, this year a yearling, ready for the halter, yet already a fence jumper, an outlaw. He had committed the un-

forgivable sin as far as Cal was concerned.

She sighed, and turned to call toward the barn where she supposed Dane was working, but as she turned her head she caught a movement in the pasture. Dane was down in the pasture among the yearling colts.

He looked so small out there, and her heart constricted. A yearling colt *was* big enough to be dangerous if he was wild . . . a kick, or a striking forefoot, and if Dane were in the way . . . but Dane had lived with horses all his life, he knew them, loved them, and they seemed to know—all but old Blackie, that is! Even she was beginning to dislike the stubborn old thing. He'd gotten out of the corral last night and into her garden. His great hooves had left a series of craters among her pansies. He'd probably eaten a few, too, before Cal got him out this morning.

Well, a fence crawler was as bad as a fence jumper. She'd use that to try and persuade Cal to keep the sorrel colt, but it probably wouldn't help. Once Cal made up his mind about something it usually stayed made up.

ON the table the dinner grew cold, while Martha watched Dane. One hour, two—it didn't matter. The only reality was the boy, and the colt.

Dane moved toward the sorrel colt, slowly, yet steadily, with no sudden motion to startle him. Almost he seemed not to move, yet he was getting closer.

The colt was skittish today, shaking his head and twitching his tail, but something in the boy's voice held the colt in spite of himself.

"Easy, Wildfire, easy now . . . that's the boy . . . don't get scared. You know me, remember? You're my horse . . . easy, that's the boy."

The voice went on, and on, gently, caressing. The words didn't matter, only the voice was important.

The colt stretched out his nose, curiously, still shaking his head. The boy waited. Now the velvet nose touched his hand, smelling the carrot. Then he spooked, something had startled him and he ran a few feet. Then he turned to watch the boy again.

Patiently Dane started over, gaining a few feet, losing them.

The colt lifted a foot and pawed the earth tentatively. The boy waited. Martha, watching, caught her breath.

Now the colt took a step forward, and stopped. Again Dane waited, not moving. Another step. The sorrel nuzzled the carrot, nibbling a little, mouthing it.

Blackie blundered by and the colt drew back, snorting and blowing, his ears back.

He held his head high, proudly. Dane called softly. The colt pawed the ground gently. Again he stepped toward the boy. Dane offered the carrot.

The colt was taking the initiative, making the advances now, and Dane stood quietly. "Just a little more . . . that's it . . . a little more . . . more yet, boy . . . easy now, I won't hurt you . . . steady, little fellow. . . ."

Step by step the colt moved up, cautious, not quite sure what it was all about, but still curious.



"Something's got to be done about that hay baler!"

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Martha almost willed the colt closer, her lips moved silently as though she were talking to the colt, her thoughts were a prayer, for the colt, and for Dane.

Now the colt had almost reached the boy. He nuzzled the carrot again, nibbling it gently. Dane held it lightly, letting the colt take it in his mouth, begin to eat it.

"It's good, eh, Wildfire? Want another?" He brought another carrot from his pocket, and as the colt reached for it he slipped his hand up to pat the glossy neck.

**W**ILDFIRE flinched a little at the touch, but he wasn't afraid now, and he seemed to like the patting. Dane began to scratch an ear. Wildfire arched his neck and moved closer.

The boy carefully brought out the halter he had carried with him, slowly bringing it up to the colt's head.

Oddly, Wildfire had lost all fear now, and welcomed the boy's hand on his neck. Even the halter didn't frighten him, so slowly did Dane bring it up and slip it over the sorrel nose and fastened the strap over the arched neck.

"There now, Wildfire, you're properly dressed. How does that feel? Pretty nice, eh? Wait till Dad sees you!"

Dane kept on stroking the colt's neck. Wildfire nuzzled his pockets, looking for another carrot. The conquest was complete.

Martha sighed, suddenly realizing the time: "Land Sakes! It's after three! Dad will be coming in no time, and we haven't even had dinner!" She smiled, "Dane's not too worried about dinner, and somehow I'm not either. If Dad had only seen that, I'm sure he'd feel better about the colt."

Now Dane would be even more bound to the colt by his conquest. By all rights the colt should be his, but what would Cal say?

Anxiously Martha looked toward the road. Perhaps Cal would be coming.

She started in surprise. Cal sat in the democrat at the pasture gate, the team standing patiently, waiting for the gate to be opened, but Cal watched Dane and the colt. How long had he been there, Martha wondered, had he seen?

Cal moved, finally, stiffly climbing down to open the gate and bring the team through, then walked slowly toward the boy, who was still unaware that anyone was near.

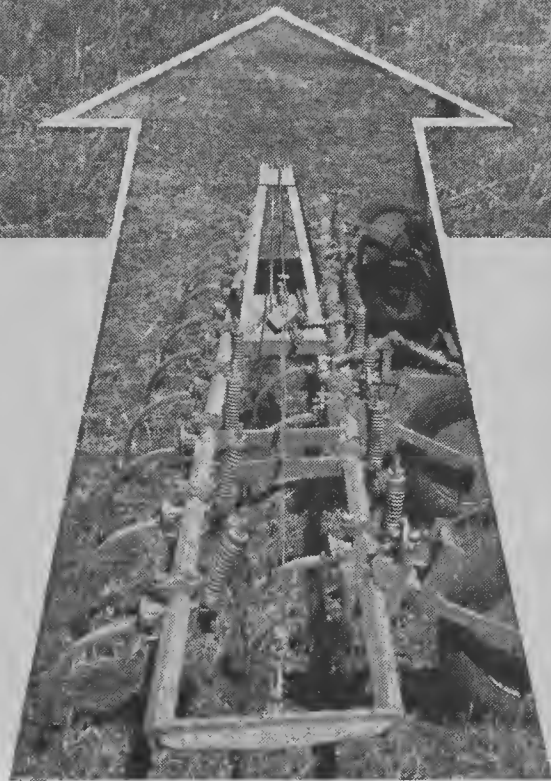
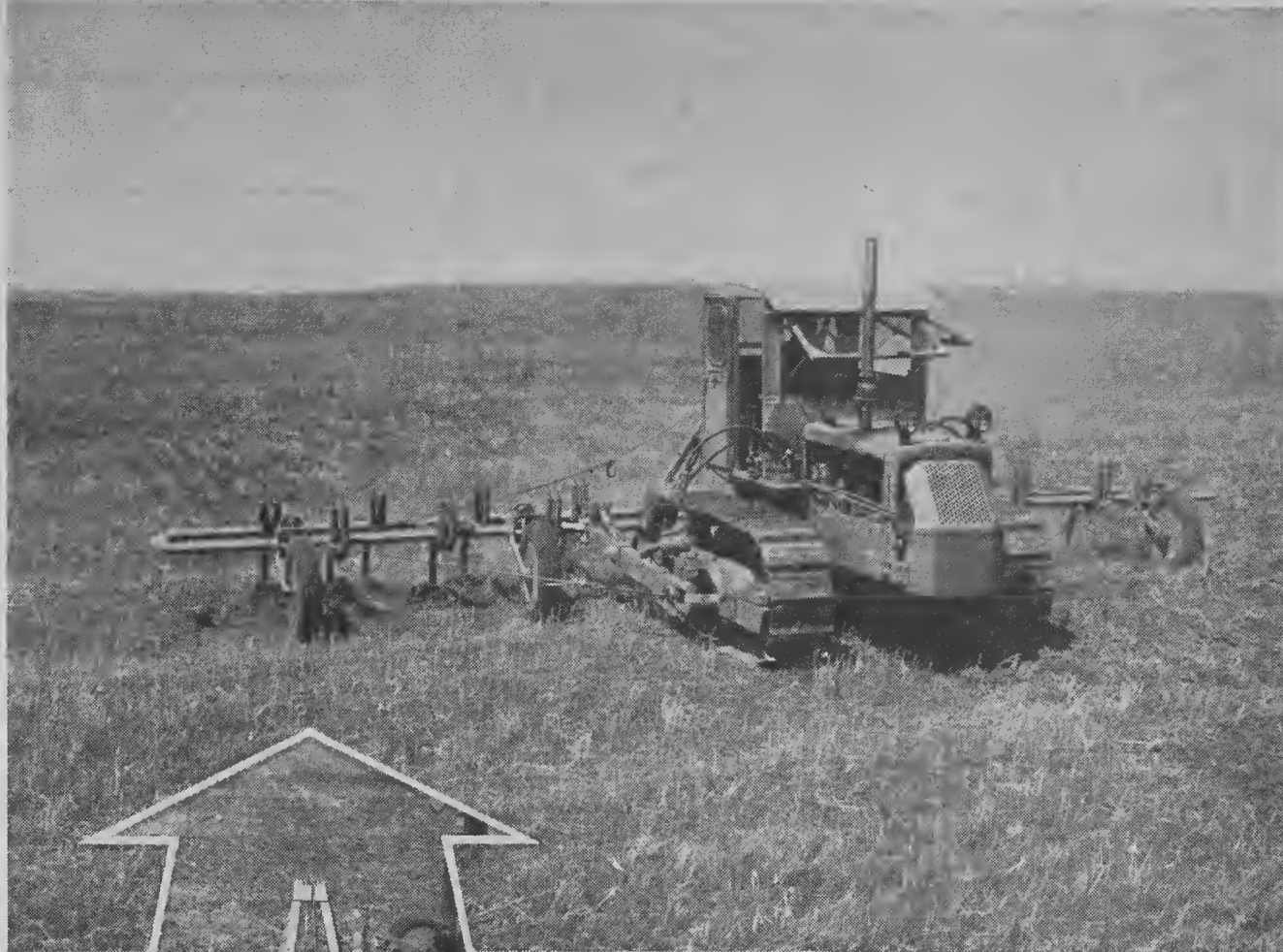
Wildfire raised his head and snorted, moving away from Dane. Dane looked around.

"Dad!" The surprised exclamation sent the colt off again, but he circled back and stood watching.

Cal smiled. "You've a good horse there, son, you don't want to spoil him. Another year and he'll make a fine saddle pony."

"You mean—he *really* is mine, Dad? Really and truly?"

"You're darn right he is. He's a lot of horse, but I guess you're a lot of boy, too!" Cal put his hand on Dane's shoulder, grinning companionably. "Come on, partner, let's go on to the house and tell Mom!"



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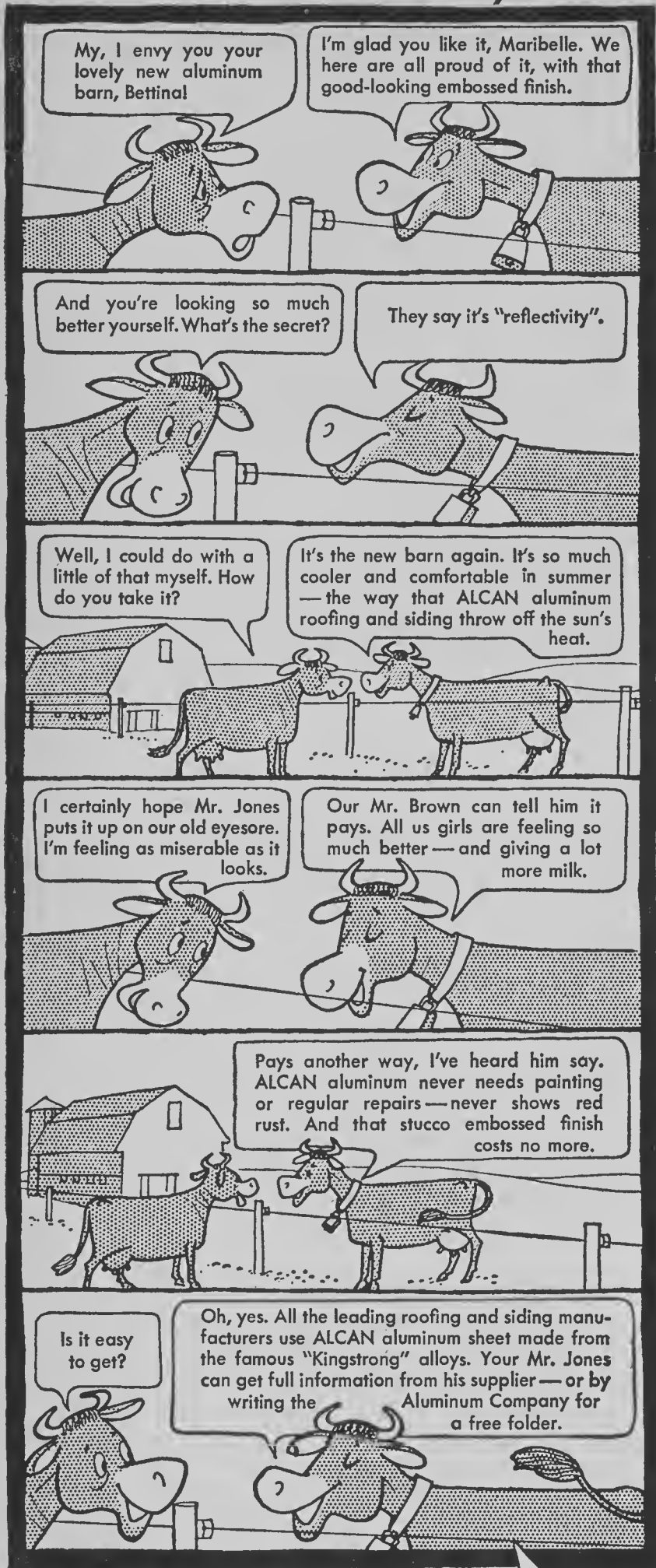
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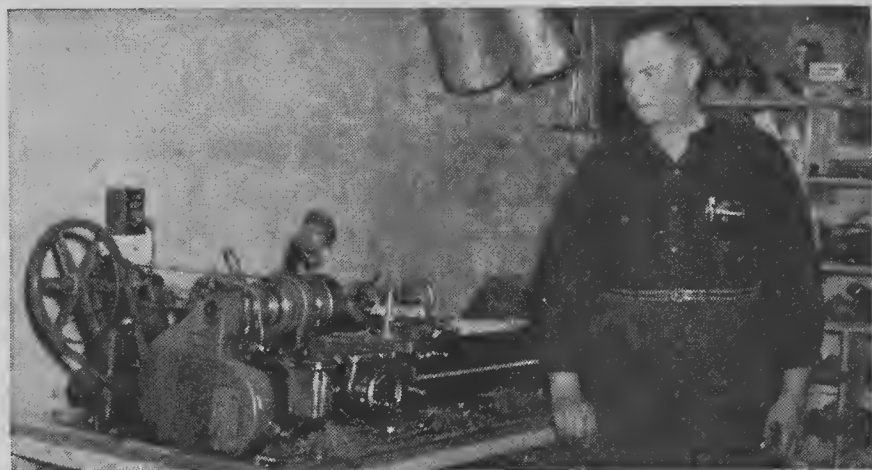
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Continued from page 18

## HALFWAY HOUSE



Geron Wohlberg beside metal working lathe in "Halfway House's" machine shop.

Wohlberg boys, as well as a depot for farm equipment repairs. It is also built into the side of the hill so vehicles can be driven to either level.

The upper storey contains a billiard room, bunk room, and wood-working shop, and the lower level a garage, a lathe-equipped machine shop, and a blacksmith shop. "Halfway House" is partly the result of unsatisfied longings during Wohlberg's own boyhood. Geron always wanted tools and materials to make things, but was never able to get them, so he made up his mind his own youngsters wouldn't find themselves in the same fix. When one of the boys built a workable lathe from spare parts, Geron decided there was enough manual skill in the family to warrant buying a real metal-working lathe so they could tackle just about any job they wanted. One of their homemade products is a device which fits onto the combine and bunches up the straw so it drops in piles that can be easily collected. Having a well-equipped machine shop in the area has been a boon for neighbors too, who often call in to make minor repairs.

At the present time, Geron is farming a section of land with his eldest son, Forrest. A second son is working away from home, and a third is taking engineering at the University of Saskatchewan. The two youngest boys attend schools in the district and are around to help out when extra hands are needed.

Although Geron has always been a dairyman at heart, he was worried about the future of the industry when margarine was legalized, so he bought some purebred Shorthorns. The Wohlbergs now have from 60 to 70 dual-purpose animals (Shorthorn-Ayrshire) and a breeding herd of about 10 Yorkshire hogs. They ship the cream and feed the skim milk to the hogs. Oats, barley and wheat are the chief grain crops, with a portion of the wheat crop being cleaned in a Carter Disc and sold as seed.

Queried about future plans, Geron admitted they included a purebred Holstein herd when the new barn is completed, so as to up the farm's milk production.

"The main thing though is to get these buildings finished," he stated.

"Right now, everything over and above our living expenses goes into the building fund. The barn is a farmer's factory, and you have to have an efficient one if you really want to produce."

But the Wohlbergs are never so busy with the building on the sidehill that they neglect the "factory" which produces their grain and forage on the land below. Although oat and barley straw is saved for livestock feed, the wheat straw is plowed under after harvest to build up soil fiber, and manure from the pit is spread out every spring.

## Midsummer Alfalfa Seeding

In some areas, alfalfa can be successfully seeded in midsummer without a nurse crop. That is what Vince Lane discovered a year or so ago, after spring and early summer had come and gone and he still had not found time to seed two fields that were due for alfalfa.

Mr. Lane manages the operations of Greenmelk Company, in the Niagara Peninsula where they grow 600 acres of alfalfa for dehydration.

The fields had been fall-plowed, and at the end of June he decided to go ahead with his plans. He seeded the well-limed and fertilized clay fields on July 1 with 17 pounds of DuPuits alfalfa per acre, without a nurse crop.

"We were lucky to get a nice shower a few days later, and the crop came along so fast that we were able to take two cuts of hay before freeze-up," he says.

He was not surprised at this fast growth, because the ground was so thoroughly warmed up by then that it was bound to give the plants a quick start. He admits, too, that if a dry spell had followed the seeding, he might not have got a catch.

Vince Lane pointed out one other advantage of late seeding. It permitted him to get an excellent weed kill before the seed went into the ground.

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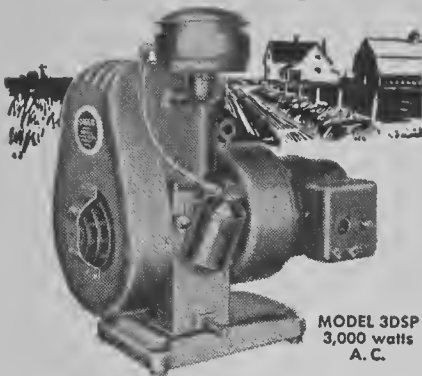
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## FARM CREDIT

It is generally held that the amount of a mortgage loan should be substantially less than the long-term value of the property. This limitation on the loan means that the property could be sold in a normal period for enough to cover the loan and still leave a margin to spare.

What is the proper loan-to-appraised-value ratio? Some lenders will extend a maximum loan of not more than 50 per cent of the appraised value of the property. At the present time the Canadian Farm Loan Board is authorized to extend a loan up to 65 per cent of the appraised value of the land to a maximum of \$15,000. The Ontario Junior Farmer Establishment Corporation may make loans up to 80 per cent of the appraised value of land and buildings, but not beyond a maximum of \$15,000. The Quebec Farm Credit Bureau can make loans up to 75 per cent of the appraised value of farm property with a maximum of \$7,000.

Many farm groups are arguing that present credit policy in Canada gives to those who "have," and prevents those with little security, but a great potential earning power, from gaining access to the credit market. It is argued that a loan that may only be extended up to 65 per cent of the value of the property practically prohibits many farmers from borrowing.

What of the length of repayment schedule desired by Canadian farmers? Many farmers are suggesting that not enough time is being allowed to repay the loan. Many credit agencies in Canada are extending long-term loans up to 25 years. Frequent requests at the present time are for repayment periods up to 40 years with the prepayment privilege at any time. The implications of the length of time required to repay a loan may be observed in the table given below. It is assumed in this example that a \$10,000 loan is taken out at two dif-

ferent rates of interest. Two time periods are compared: a 10-year and a 35-year contract at a 4 per cent and 5 per cent interest charge.

With an interest charge of 4 per cent and 10 years to repay the loan, the annual repayment charge is \$1,233. The total principal plus interest paid amounts to \$12,330. Where the debt is contracted for 35 years at 4 per cent, the annual charge is \$536 and the total amount paid is \$18,760. Obviously, the longer contract permits a smaller repayment charge each year. On the other hand, a greater total amount is paid out in the form of an interest charge for the 35-year contract. The interest rate becomes more important as the debt contract is lengthened. Where the contract is 35 years, the total amount paid is \$18,760 at 4 per cent and \$21,385 at 5 per cent. Much more research is required on the length of the debt contract best adapted to farm conditions.

Is there any merit to the argument that present farm credit policy places more emphasis on the security or collateral than the earning power of the loan? It appears that present credit institutions are more interested in the "safety" of the loan than in its "soundness" or potential earning power. In other words, it is "safer" to place a loan with an established farmer who wants to invest in a new tractor than with the beginning farmer short on equipment, or the farmer on an uneconomic size of farm unit who needs another 160 acres of land.

The main reason that lenders place the emphasis on security rather than the earning power of a loan is due

	10 yrs. to repay	35 yrs. to repay
\$10,000 loan at 4 per cent		
1. Annual payment, principal plus interest.....	\$ 1,233	\$ 536
2. Total interest plus principal paid.....	12,330	18,760
\$10,000 loan at 5 per cent		
3. Annual payment, principal plus interest.....	1,295	611
4. Total interest plus principal paid.....	12,950	21,385

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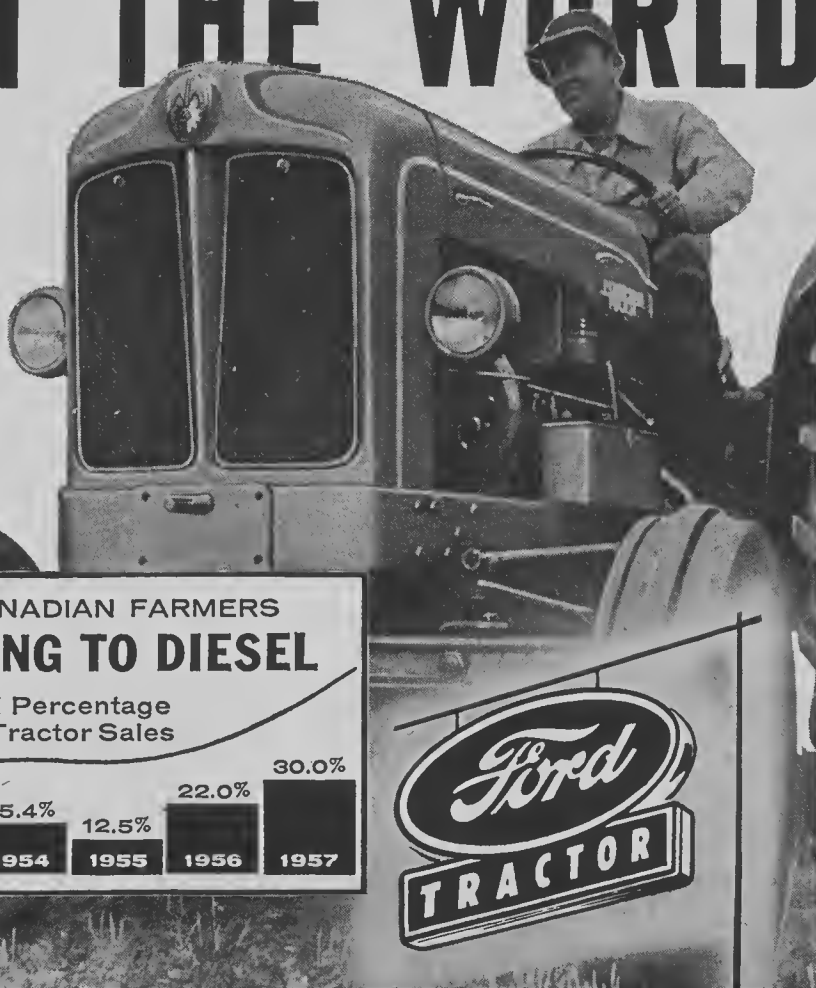
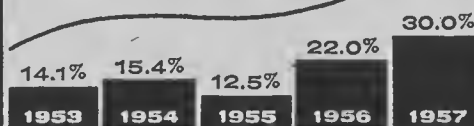
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## CANADIAN FARMERS SWING TO DIESEL

Diesel Percentage of all Tractor Sales



partly to the variability of farm earnings and to the lack of satisfactory financial records kept by the farmers. Serious consideration needs to be given to the problem of extending loans to farmers where the potential earning power is high but where the security or collateral is very low.

Ironically enough, there are many farmers in Canada who are not taking as much credit as they need or they could obtain, because of the risks involved. Farming is notorious for the instability and uncertainty of prices, yield and incomes from year to year. Many contend that credit would be a better risk if the debt repayment schedule was tied to some index of prices, yields or income. In other words, the good years could be used to compensate for the poor years. In fact, some farmers already have an arrangement of this type. Many have purchased farms on a cropshare arrangement. In effect, the debt repayment schedule is geared to the fluctuations in crop yields. The same principle might well be tried in having the debt repayment related to fluctuations in farm income.

A large group of farmers in Canada finance from several credit sources at the same time. One farmer known to the writer had varying amounts of credit from 12 different sources. All credit sources wanted their debts repaid at the same time. The strain was too great for the farm business. The result was bankruptcy for the farmer. An important need of many farmers in the use of credit is the consolidation of debts, so that they repay only one credit agency over a longer period of time. Too many farmers at the present time are "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

One of the greatest needs in the successful use of credit is the development of improved business methods among farmers. For the most part, farmers must improve their competence as businessmen. In addition to this, however, farmers are in great need of some agency with which they could consult on financial or business matters concerning the use of credit in their farm business. We already have agencies with whom a farmer can consult with respect to the production side of his farm. Why not for credit problems?

### Requirements of a Sound Credit Policy

What type of credit policy will best meet the needs of a modern, commercial agriculture? Here are some of the questions that need to be answered for a sound credit for Canadian farmers:

1. How can adequate credit be extended to farms where the security or collateral is lacking, but where the potential earning power is high?
2. What type of credit policy would be best adapted to the yield, price and income instability of the farm industry?
3. What steps should be taken to see that more liberal credit arrangements for agriculture are not dissipated through unduly high land values?
4. What action should be taken to see that farmers receive more training or advice on the use of credit in the farm business?

There are no immediate answers to the above questions. The present lending institutions are doing a relatively

good job of serving the established farmers. There is still a large segment of the farm industry, however, which is neglected from the standpoint of credit needs. A sound credit policy for all Canadian farmers involves a number of considerations.

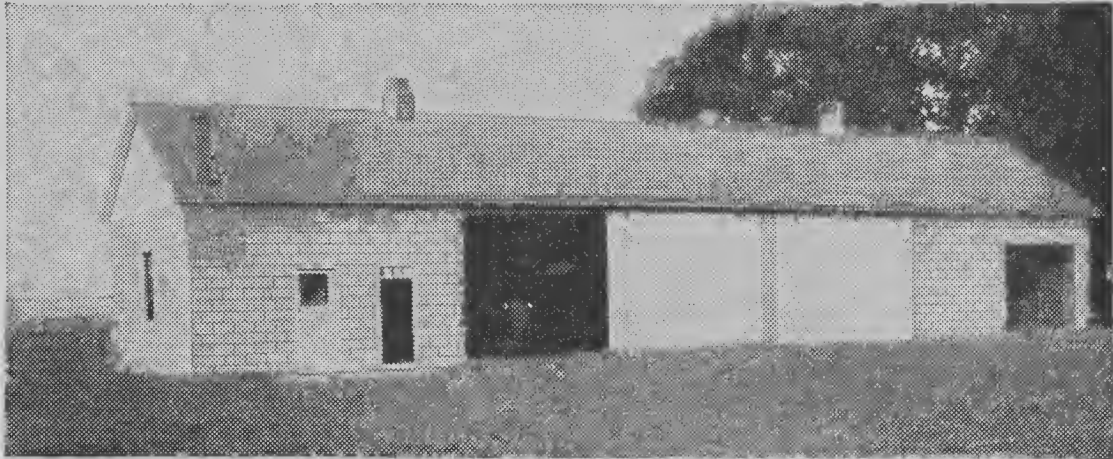
A proposal that deserves serious consideration is that of a national form of supervised credit. Supervision would partly take the place of the conventional collateral as security for loans. Supervised credit would be aimed primarily at beginning farmers and

families on farms of uneconomic size. Supervised loans would only be extended after it could be demonstrated that the potential earning power of the investment was more than adequate to service the loan. Stress would be placed on a carefully outlined plan of operations for the farm business. Yearly financial records would have to be maintained by the borrower and would be analyzed by the supervising credit agency.

Serious consideration needs to be given to the idea of having the debt

repayment schedule tied to the index of farm income. A flexible debt repayment schedule would use the good years to relieve the burden of the debt in years when farm income is low. A good example of this is the present provision of the Veterans' Land Act, which permits veterans who purchased wheat farms to make debt payments on a cropshare basis. Flexibility in debt repayment would be a welcome improvement to borrowers.

More liberal credit arrangements for agriculture tend to be bid away

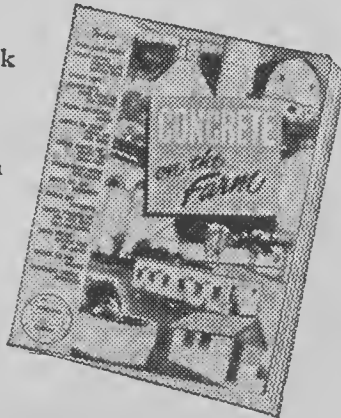


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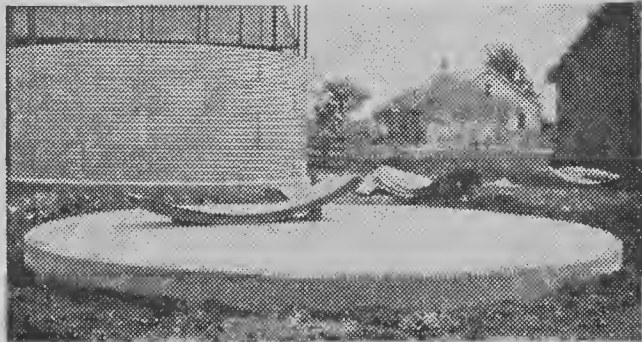
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through higher land values. Farmers have a tendency to pay too much for land when incomes are high and when credit is more easily obtainable. This inflation in land might be prevented by improvement in land appraisal techniques and by education of farmers with respect to proper land values.

ONE of the biggest weaknesses of credit use in farming has been the "piece-meal" type of approach. Much of the financing in agriculture has been done on a commodity basis. It is common today to find both the lender and the borrower approaching credit use from the standpoint of financing feeder cattle, hogs, land, machinery, buildings or fertilizer. More

emphasis is needed on a balanced or integrated credit program for the individual farm. The farm should be financed as a "whole unit" of operation and not cut up into segments for purposes of financing. An integrated credit program may be achieved by either having one lending institution finance the whole farm operation or by a complete co-ordination of the several lending agencies financing the individual farm.

Credit is by no means the final answer to all of the ills of agriculture. Everyone recognizes the importance of adequate prices for the welfare of farmers. No one will deny that wheat at \$2 per bushel and the \$50 hog are to be preferred over prices prevailing at the present time. It is misleading to suggest, however, that higher prices

are the "cure-all" for all farm problems in Canada. Surely, many of the farms are too small to benefit much from higher prices. Many are finding that another 160 acres of land, better buildings, or more equipment are more

important than higher prices. To this extent farm credit is an extremely important factor. Only as many of the farms in Canada are reorganized or expanded in size will other farm policies assume greater importance. V

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Continued from page 9

from 1957 seedings are indicated. In Manitoba, wheat acreage may increase by 8 per cent.

Prospective plantings of spring wheat of 20.1 million acres are 2 per cent below the 1957 acreage and practically all the decrease is expected in the Prairie Provinces. Durum wheat is included with the

spring wheat figures, but acreages of this crop have also been estimated separately. The results indicate a substantial switch out of durum wheat in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but in Manitoba, where new rust-resistant varieties are available, farmers intend to increase the plantings. Overall, a decrease in acreage of 34 per cent is expected for durum wheat. Plantings of winter wheat in Ontario of 0.6 million acres are the smallest since 1946.

Rye. The area intended for spring rye in 1958 is placed at 122,500 acres, 10 per cent above last year's level. However, with a 13 per cent decline in the area seeded to fall rye last autumn, the combined acreage of fall and spring rye is placed at 505,700 acres—down 8 per cent from last season and only half of the 5-year 1952-56 acreage.

Oats. The intended acreage of oats for grain, at 11.1 million acres, is 1 per cent above last year and 3 per cent above the 1952-56 average.

Barley. Prospective barley acreage is placed at 9.8 million acres—a rise of 5 per cent over the previous year's plantings to this crop.

Mixed Grains. Acreage intentions of 1.5 millions are 3 per cent above last year, but 6 per cent below the 5-year average.

Corn for Grain. This crop, grown mainly in Ontario, but including small acreages in Manitoba, may be sown on 507,400 acres—a decrease of only 1 per cent.

Flaxseed. Acreage may decline substantially in Manitoba and Saskatchewan reflecting poor yields last year, but acreage indications in Alberta suggest an increase there. For Canada as a whole, plantings may be down 9 per cent in 1958.

Rapeseed. If intentions are confirmed, acreage sown to this crop will establish a new record at 848,400 acres. This would be 31 per cent above the 1957 acreage and 636 per cent above the 1952-56 average of 115,200 acres. In the past, a large proportion of the crop has been grown under contract, and the ability to obtain contracts, as well as the price offered, may influence actual seeding materially.

Mustard Seed. The intended acreage, at 100,000 acres, shows an increase of 9 per cent from 1957, and 34 per cent above the 5-year average. Most of the crop is grown in Southern Alberta on a contract basis. The ability of growers to obtain contracts could influence actual seedings.

Sunflower Seed, grown mainly in Manitoba, may increase 36 per cent to 47,600 acres in 1958. At this level, acreage would be 3 per cent above the 5-year average.

Soybean acreage may decline to 234,000 acres, because of a prospective decrease of 5 per cent in Ontario. Seedings of this size would be 11 per cent above the recent 5-year average.

Potatoes. With the exception of Nova Scotia and Ontario, where slight

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decreases are in prospect, acreages are expected to remain the same or slightly exceed those of 1957. In the Prairies, where prices have been strong, somewhat larger increases are planned than for the other provinces. The all-Canada total, currently placed at 313,900 acres, is only 1 per cent above 1957.

Intended plantings for buckwheat, dry peas and beans, tame hay, field roots and sugar beets were not available. V

### TOBACCO SALES GAIN MOMENTUM

After a slow and hectic start, Ontario's new tobacco auction system has settled down to move tobacco through the warehouses at the rate of about two million pounds per day. Prices have been substantially higher than they were last year. The storm of opposition, which was aroused when the new Marketing Board replaced the old barn selling system with the warehouse auction, has died down. The Board is confident that the entire crop will be sold before warm weather brings about any deterioration. V

### NEW FRUIT GROUP IN B.C.

It has been reported that a new organization of fruit growers has been organized in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley in opposition to the powerful B.C. Fruit Growers Association. Provisional aims of the new group, to be called the Canadian Fruit Growers (Western Division), states that it is "formed to oppose and compete with the BCFGA for control of the B.C. tree fruit industry." Apparently there is unrest among some growers because of the bleak outlook for the fruit industry in the province. V

### U.K. TO BUY MORE APPLES

It was good news to Nova Scotia apple growers to learn that the British Government had allocated an additional \$250,000 for the purchase of canned apples in North America. It is anticipated that a considerable share of the proposed purchase will be secured from processing outlets in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. Nova Scotia's Minister of Agriculture Haliburton said he was convinced that the additional market will have a beneficial effect on the industry, and will encourage all branches to look forward and plan with confidence for 1958. V

### ONTARIO HOG MEETING

Marketing and production of hogs, the Hog Marketing Board's directional program, and vertical integration and contract farming were the major topics discussed at the annual meeting of the Ontario Hog Producers' Association held in Toronto recently.

Charles McInnis, president of the Association, reviewed the work and accomplishments of the Marketing Board since its inception. He pointed out that since the end of July, 1956, to Dec. 31, 1957, the percentage of hogs which were made available under the directional program for sale and delivery to the best buyer increased from 6 per cent to 80 per cent of the total Ontario production. He indicated that 7 new marketing points were opened up in 1957, which gave Ontario producers a total of 14

open markets to which they could deliver their hogs.

He called for a 100 per cent directional program to be the objective for 1958; for research into livestock transportation, the proper location of marketing points and producer control over vertical integration; for an extensive information program; and a continuing effort to maintain the excellent record of salesmanship displayed by the Board's salesmen. These and other points were endorsed in meeting resolutions. V

### WHEAT SUPPLIES AND EXPORTS

Supplies of wheat remaining on or about February 1 in the four major exporting countries for export and carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,014.7 million bushels, down 12 per cent from the year earlier total of 2,288 million bushels, according to the February issue of the Wheat Review. Supplies were held as follows (in millions): United States, 1,052 bushels (1,166.5 a year ago); Canada, 793.7 (847.1); Argentina, 116.7 (155.7); and Australia, 52.3 (118.7).

Total exports of wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat from the four countries in the first six months (August-January) of the current Canadian crop year fell 22 per cent to 405.6 million bushels from 517.1 million bushels a year earlier. Exports were smaller from all countries except Canada.

Exports by countries in the six months were (in millions): United States, 176.8 bushels (252.7 a year earlier); Canada, 149.4 (144.1); Argentina, 39.7 (45.8); and Australia, 39.7 (74.5). Canada's share of total shipments from the four countries rose to 37 per cent from 28 per cent a year earlier. V

### TESTING CATTLE FOR INHERITANCE

It should be possible to change the genetic make-up and the physical appearance of a herd of cattle within a comparatively few generations by the successive use of bulls which, as a result of performance testing, have demonstrated that they possess high inheritance for certain characteristics, says W. P. Watson, Ontario's livestock commissioner.

To support his claim that performance testing has something to offer, Mr. Watson gives the following six factors and their degree of heritability. They are birth weight, which is 72 per cent heritable; weaning weight, 23 per cent; rate of gain on feed, 60 per cent; efficiency of gain, 22 per cent; final weight, 84 per cent; and slaughter grade, 42 per cent.

For example, if size is the aim, it could be achieved most rapidly by selecting calves with the highest birth weights as herd replacements. If greater economy is desired, selection should be based on rate of gain.

The Ontario ROP program is limited to young bulls at a controlled station, and some farm testing. To qualify as "performance tested" in Ontario, a bull must gain on test at least 2 pounds a day, and be classified in the top type grades as a "breeder" or "commercial" bull. V

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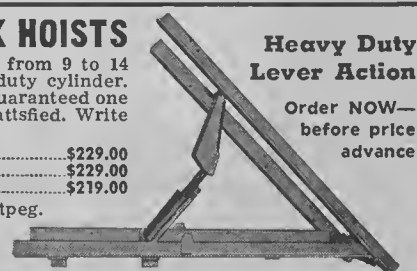
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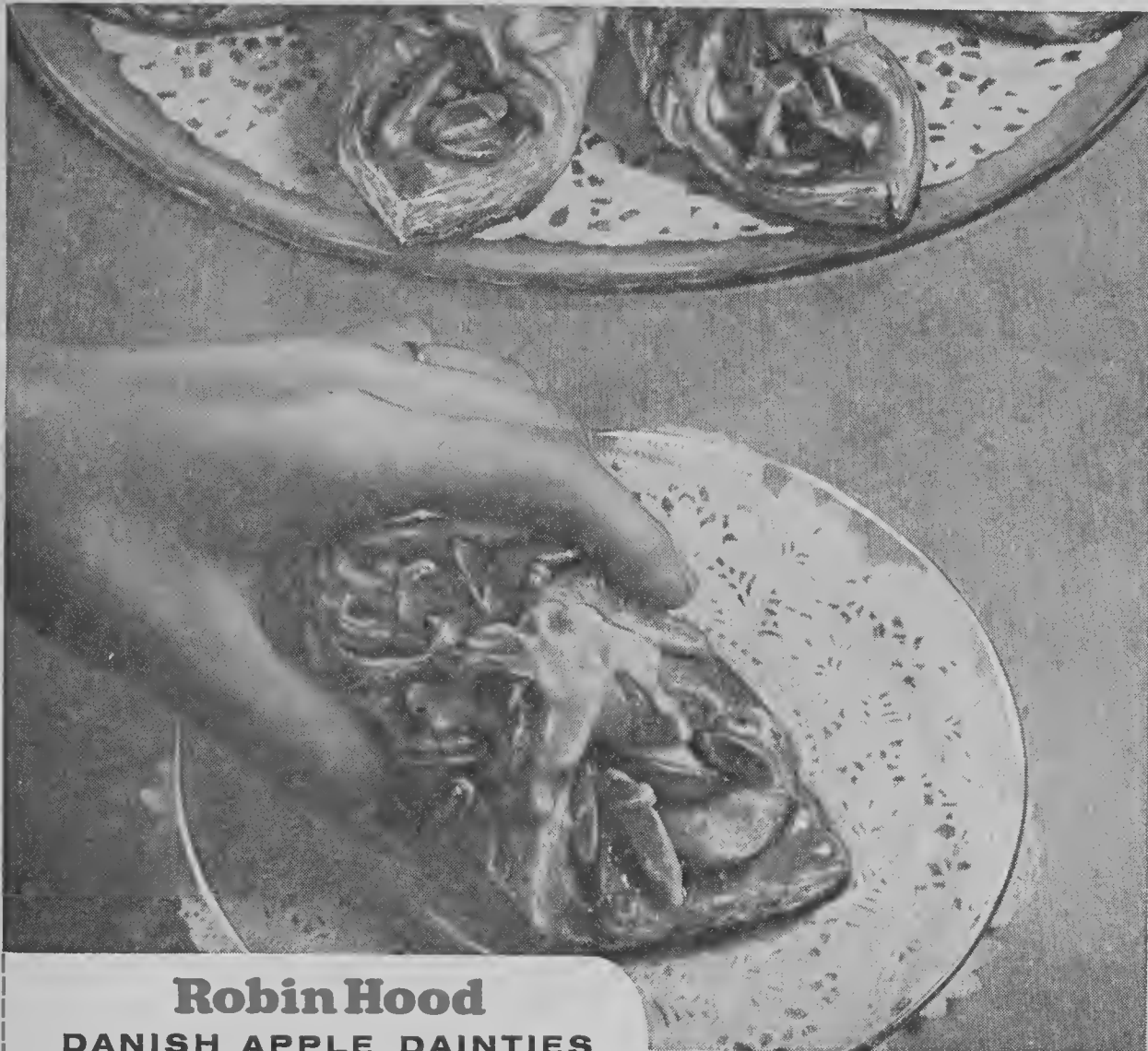
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## This week's Robin Hood "BAKE-TESTED" recipe



### Robin Hood

#### DANISH APPLE DAINTIES

Tasty apples and almonds and a dash of cinnamon make these Danish Dainties a real treat. And the pastry is the kind that brings them back for more. With "Bake-Tested" Robin Hood Flour, that's guaranteed!

- ½ cup lukewarm water
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 packages fast-rising dry yeast
- 3 cups sifted Robin Hood All-Purpose Flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ lb. chilled butter
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk

Dissolve 1 teaspoon sugar in lukewarm water. Sprinkle yeast on top. Let stand 10 minutes. Then stir well.

Sift dry ingredients together. Cut in chilled butter quickly. Beat egg and egg yolk until light and thick. Stir into dissolved yeast. Pour into flour mixture and combine thoroughly. Knead dough in the bowl until smooth. Cover closely and chill for 30 minutes.

Core apples and slice very thin. Mix with sugar and cinnamon. Blanch and slice almonds. Beat egg white and water together slightly.

Turn dough out on lightly flour-

#### FILLING:

- 3 apples
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup blanched almonds, slivered

#### GLAZE:

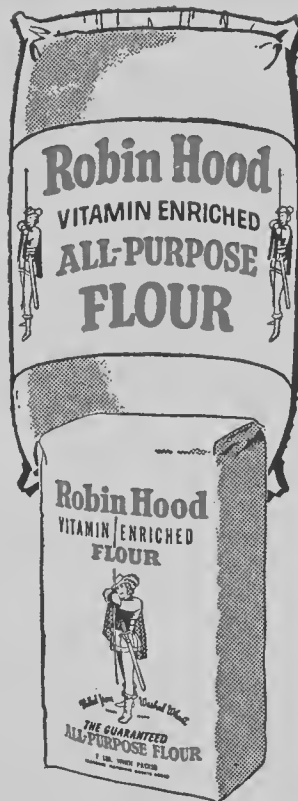
- 1 egg white
- 1 tablespoon cold water

(Yield: 2 dozen)

ed board. Divide into 2 equal portions. Roll each out to rectangle, 9" x 12" and cut into 12 squares. Place 2 or 3 apple slices on centre of each square. Moisten diagonally opposite corners and pinch together, leaving other two corners flat with some apple showing.

Place on greased baking sheet. Cover. Let rise in warm place 15 minutes. Brush with egg white mixture. Sprinkle with slivered almonds and sugar.

Bake in moderately hot oven, 375°F., 20 minutes. If desired, drizzle a thin mixture of icing sugar, water and rum extract over warm apple dainties.



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## Learning The Hard Way

**J**OSEPH FORTUNAT MENARD didn't put up the first "saw lumber" house on the prairies—not by a long shot. But he may have helped put up the first *pre-fabricated* house. Maybe it wasn't as fancy as the pre-fabs of today, but back in 1912 folks out west didn't worry too much about fancy things. The place was reasonably comfortable, and it went up with a minimum of time and labor, which was the main thing. Getting new land broken, a crop grown and harvested, a well dug and a place to live, before the deep freeze set in, was quite a chore for an expert, let alone a young greenhorn from Montreal.

Joseph and his brothers, Donat and Louis, arrived in Saskatchewan to stay in 1912, but they had been out on a trip the year before to file on quarter-section homesteads at their present location, near Shaunavon, 50 miles south of Gull Lake. With them they brought a pile of eastern lumber which their father had pre-cut in the form of a small house. When they reached their homesteads, the first job the brothers tackled was to make a pasture for their cow, then they set to work to put up the house.

In the following years the Menards made many mistakes, Joseph admits, but they stayed with their farm through good years and bad. Today, their original three quarters has grown to about three sections, and the old prefab has been replaced by an attractive brick house with all the modern conveniences. One reason they managed to keep going during the lean years, when many were leaving the country, was because they went out of their way to keep up with new developments in agriculture. As new machinery was produced they bought it, for they realized the future success of farming on these broad plains lay in mechanization.

"We were green, and made plenty of blunders, because we had nobody to guide us," said Joseph. "But nowadays, people have fine experimental farms to try out new ideas and crops for them. There are experts to advise newcomers on just about every problem they are liable to run into. With all this help available, any farmer who doesn't keep up to date has nobody to blame but himself." v



Joseph F. Menard can look back on 46 years of farming in Shaunavon area.



## Home and Family



Eva Luoma photo

## Spring Fever

by GLENORA PEARCE

IT'S great to be outdoors again. It's fun to dig and feel the earth running through our fingers, to sow seed and watch it grow. The younger the gardener, the more fun it is, but all of us are able to share the thrill of another spring.

Not all the joy is in the planting. There are also the seed catalogs, round which the whole family can gather to plan their garden. Catalogs are worth reading for recreation, too, and for the visions they conjure up of fabulous bowers filled with dazzling blooms. With the catalogs, temptation enters into our homes, and we spend millions in our imaginations as we plan the greatest garden of all time.

This is one way to jump ahead of the weather. Sleet and slush may prevent us from getting down to work, but they can't stop our thoughts,

as they gallop ahead to the warm days, and the scents and sounds of the perfect garden that we and the catalog have been dreaming up together.

The children are not content with dreaming. Spring is in their hearts, and they must be out there, digging a hole as big as a pumpkin to drop a tiny seed into. The hoe and the spade may be twice as big as they are, the words on the seed packet may not mean a thing to them, but they know what to do. They are the eternal optimists, who plant a bean and watch for a beanstalk growing up into the sky. Perhaps all of us have that same instinct in our hearts at springtime. That's why we go on planting, even though we had some disappointments last year. That's why life goes on.

V



# Old House for New

*The Kings set out to plan a house as modern as any in the city, but adapted to the business of farming. Today they have a home that anyone would be proud to own*

by **CLIFF FAULKNOR**

*"Ain't gonna need this house no longer  
Ain't gonna need this house no more  
Ain't got time to fix the shingles  
Ain't got time to fix the floor."*

*The Kings sit on the front step looking happy and contented with a building job well done.*

[Guide photos



FOR 10 years, Carman and Enid King lived in a small 2-storey frame structure on their farm 4 miles west of High River, Alta. Their three boys, Barry 17, John 13, and Sheldon 10, were growing up (as boys have a habit of doing) and the Kings found themselves running out of space. They thought of rebuilding the old place, and possibly adding a room or two, but there just wasn't anything to build on. The floor sagged in several spots, many shingles on the roof needed replacing, and winter winds seemed to blow right through the walls. When Carman finally refused to sink any more money in the house, there was only one thing to do—build a new one.

"We knew it would be a costly business," Enid said, "but we wanted a permanent home while our family was still with us. So many people start building a real home just when their children are ready to launch out on their own, and then find themselves with a big empty house on their hands."

Once having decided, Carman and Enid set to work drawing up plans (there never was a formal blueprint) for the kind of a place they wanted.



Barry King shows the built-in desk and shelves that would be a handy feature in any teen-age boy's room.

They were through with mere accommodation. What they had in mind was a real home, combining all the modern features of city living with a few practical additions that would fit in with their business of farming.

It took a bit of close figuring to secure the required loan, and a bit of a gamble, too. The main operation on the King farm is cattle feeding, so Carman and Enid had a few uneasy qualms about what would happen if the bottom fell out of the feeder market. But prices held up fairly well, and work on the new house went forward without too many delays.

NO actual building contract was ever drawn up. Carman hired two good carpenters at hourly rates of pay, and hauled the cement, gravel, and lumber himself. Apart from helping with the concrete work, he left the rest of the building up to the experts—and to his wife, who became a bit of an expert. While the work was going on, Carman and the two older boys were busy putting up winter hay (600 tons). Any snap decisions to be made—and there were plenty—were made by Enid, mainly because she was there in the old house close by.

"If we'd known how much trouble it would be, I don't think we would've had the courage to start," she confessed later.

But that's all behind them now, and the Kings have a home that anyone would be proud to own. A cattleman might say it is built on a modified "loose housing" plan, for there are no doors separating the main hall, living room, dining room, and kitchen. These revolve around a central structure which contains a fireplace, china cabinets, stove, refrigerator, kitchen cupboards, and a basement stairway.

Entering the front door, the first thing which strikes your eye is a mahogany planter which

divides the living room and hall. Bookshelves built in below the planter are accessible from the living room side. The walls of the living-dining area are also mahogany lined, and a valance of the same material runs right around the outer walls of the two rooms. Indirect lighting concealed in the valance creates a soft, pleasing glow over the walls and massive, floor-length thermopane windows.

The kitchen is birch lined, contains 21 cupboards, and ample working space. A special feature here is hanging cupboards between the kitchen and dining area that can be opened from either side.

"What I can't figure out," said a neighbor, shaking his head, "is why you didn't put in any doors."

"We have doors where we need them," was Carman's reply.

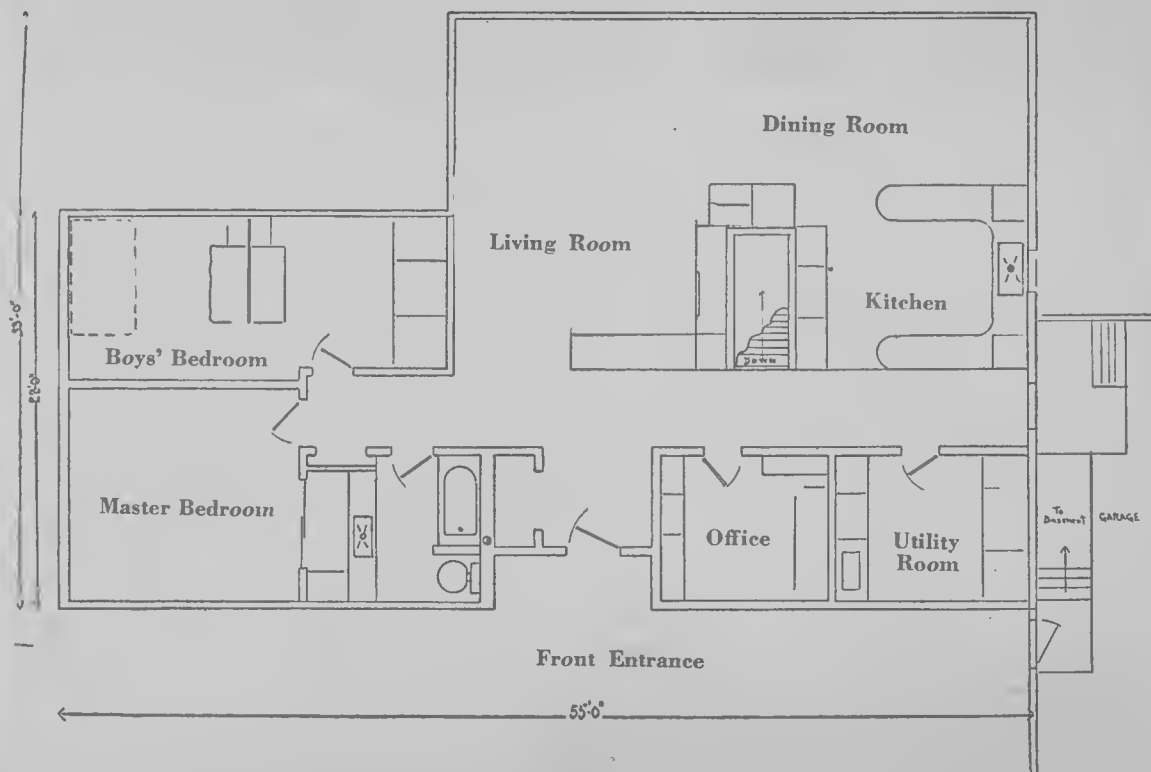
At the kitchen end of the long through hall, a door leads into the attached garage. Another, on the left, opens to a spacious utility room, containing sink, washer, dryer, and supply cupboards. The next room is Carman's office—this is attractively decorated, and contains cupboards, shelves, a desk, and a studio couch. Down at the far end of the hall, a door leads to the birch-lined master bedroom, and, on the left, another opens to the boys' room.

This is actually two rooms connected by a short open hall. The section separating the rooms contains built-in desks, shelves, and clothes cupboards on each side. Barry has one room to himself, while his younger brothers share the other, which has bunk beds amply supplied with drawers. In all, there are 70 built-in drawers in the King home.

THE main floor space covers a total area of 1,580 square feet. About 850 square feet of this is rubber tile covered, and the remainder is fitted with wall-to-wall carpeting. With the exception of the five large thermopane sheets in the living-dining-kitchen area, all windows are of the



Here is a view of the living room area with fireplace and piano, which add to the sociability of the home.



aluminum storm-and-screen combination type.

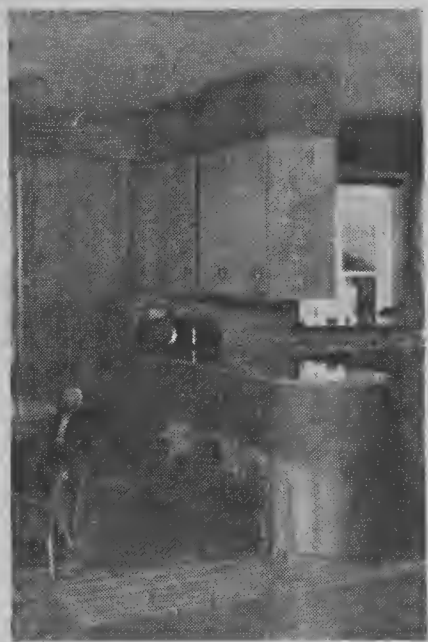
During the winter when the house was being built, the Kings used to come in and build a big fire in the fireplace, then sit around on boxes enjoying it. By early spring, work was far enough advanced for them to move in. Like most families who build a home, they found there were a hundred-and-one things to be done, even after the main structure was finished.

One of these was to fix up the 1,580 square feet of extra floor space in the concrete basement. Bathroom facilities have been installed down there and a large rumpus room is being laid out. In addition to the stairway to the main hall, another leads up to the attached garage, so the basement can be used for extra hands at harvest time — a practical feature in any farm home.

The next big job will be to landscape the grounds outside. Plans for this have been prepared by a landscape architect, so there shouldn't be too many snap decisions to be made when that job starts.

"If we had it to do over again, we'd have proper plans drawn up for the whole house," Enid said. "When all the smallest details are worked out it relieves you of having to make so many decisions while the work is going on — that's what *gets* you, in a project like this. I wouldn't advise anyone to start building a house without a complete plan."

But she probably had a lot of fun being construction "straw boss" just the same. V



A counter and hanging cupboards separate the dining and the kitchen areas.

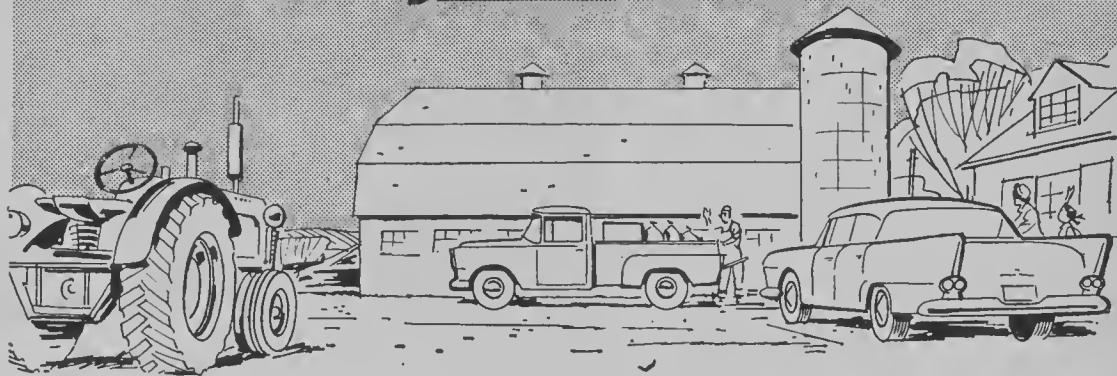
## At the Ironing—Bored

My ironing board's my thinking place  
Where weekly problems I embrace;  
And often, pressing on a blouse  
I practice sparring with my spouse.  
A subject's picked—I'm pro or con—  
With scorching blow—the fight is on!  
Amazing fast, the ironing's done,  
The battle's up—again I've won!

At dusk, poor hubby, feeling gray  
Comes home—unmindful of our "fray;"  
He gives my cheek a wifely brush  
And then—I have the grace to blush.

—MARGARET READ.

# How Firestone tires will cut costs on your farm

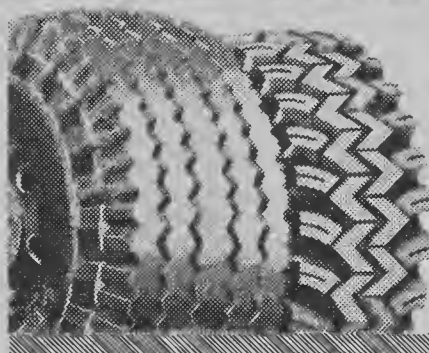


Today, more than ever before, you need efficiency on your farm. When it comes to *tires*, efficiency means three things . . . performance, long tire life and maximum economy. Firestone offers you the most efficient tires for every car, truck, tractor and implement wheel that rolls on your farm.



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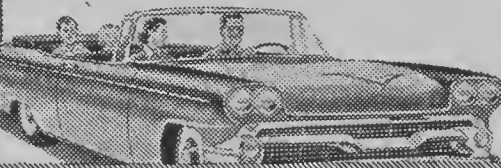
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# The Canadian Conference on Education

... a trail-blazing  
discussion of  
the growth and  
weaknesses of  
education  
in Canada



Pausing to say "Hello" at Canadian Conference on Education invited further opinion on the problems of education. Hearing the viewpoint of Jack Ferguson (center), official spokesman for organized agriculture, are: Mrs. A. A. Turnbull, Provincial Council of Women delegate from Saint John, N.B., and W. John Alliston, Canadian School Trustees' Association, Saint John County, N.B., during an informal discussion.

**W**HY did Johnny stop school before completing junior high studies? Was it the fault of his parents, the high school teachers, or his prospective university? The great number of bright young Canadians who leave school too early was a major reason why 850 people traveled to Ottawa recently on invitation from the Canadian Conference on Education. Perhaps discussion could produce a plug against this draining away of potential leaders. There were also problems in elementary education which needed to be thrashed out. And what about the possibility of placing more learning before Johnny's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Average Citizen? None of the 850 seemed particularly concerned about training young brains to invent nuclear weapons. Perhaps in the shelter of America's feverish ICBM and satellite programs, Canadians feel free to concentrate on the arts and humanitarian study.

In the eight conference workshops, delegates heard statistics and viewpoints from capable educators and lay people, then they settled down to examine Canada's standards of education. It was a unique gathering. School trustees were seen informing college presidents, teachers complained to labor leaders, women's club delegates pointed out to Senators the roots of education's problems and, in the exchange of opinions, a few answers were found.

It was agreed that lack of funds may have been what kept Johnny from going on through high school and into university. But it might also have been lack of interest, and there were many subscribers to this theory. As long as times are good, Johnny's present educational standing can help him earn big money in industry.

It was also believed that his parents might have contributed to Johnny's decision to leave school, urging that he start paying a share of household expenses. Or, they might have allowed him to start high school and then, seeing him draw away intellectually, taken steps to bring him back into the family fold. . . . "Johnny's getting to think he's pretty smart. A little hard work at home will fix that." He is taken out of school, stays out, and so is lost to a Canada that needs more young Johnnys up front.

**A**GRICULTURE'S official voice at the conference, Mr. Jack Ferguson, chairman, Education Committee, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, expressed great concern over early drop-outs in rural schools. He offered a number of solutions to this and other rural educational problems which,

if taken up, would remove considerably hesitancy from agriculture's stride.

- Every rural man or woman should receive Grade X academic schooling, plus at least two years' vocational training in agriculture or domestic science.
- Agriculture extension, 4-H clubwork, and such adult education services as Farm Radio Forum should be expanded and utilized as much as possible.
- Teaching standards should be raised.
- The local ratepayer must be relieved of the burden of providing the capital costs of school buildings and facilities.
- A doubling of the inspecting time per classroom is desirable, with more accurate reporting of teachers' ability to the local board.
- More composite high schools are required to halt the excessively high rate of early drop-outs.
- A variety of high school courses should be offered.

He concluded, "In rural areas the less economically favored sections of the population receive the least adequate schooling. This is not only a very unfair situation, but it is the worst possible social policy. It is precisely in those areas, found in all parts of Canada where farm incomes are very low, that it is important that the new generation receives the best possible education."

**P**ERHAPS it was the teacher's fault that Johnny didn't go on in school. One Conference group decided that, "If teachers are to be the kind of people from whom children will learn most readily not only skills but attitudes, then adequate courses in human relations and child development must be a part of every teacher's training."

We need this type of teacher, agreed Canon G. E. Carter, St. Joseph Teachers College, Montreal, but we'd be lucky to get it from present one-year training courses. He told delegates, "In our experience, it has been wonderful to perceive the mental growth that comes in the second year of a teacher-training program."

In the U.S.A., 37 states have set their minimum teacher-training period at 4 years. The Conference suggested a quick follow suit, recommending im-

mediate establishment in Canada of a minimum teacher-training program of 2 years, plus senior matriculation—the eventual objective to be 4 years. The teachers were said to be worried about lack of prestige. The Conference believed that if the profession could raise its academic level, prestige would be a natural companion.

Was it the university's fault that Johnny did not enter its classroom? University leaders told the group that quite a number of the students now being accepted are not equipped for higher study, or particularly interested in it, but they can pay the fees. It is not possible to lower fees. Indeed, it is likely they will have to be raised again to cover rising costs of operation. To help promising students who cannot afford university, there exist scholarships, bursaries, and loan funds. The Conference passed a resolution recommending that the universities send more information concerning such aids to the high schools as incentive to bright students.

**W**HAT subjects should be taught in the schools? The workshop studying curricula decided: reading, language (written and spoken), spelling, handwriting, arithmetic, social studies, science (nature study in the first six grades), health (including safety education), physical education (emphasis on games), music, art, and a second language.

The Secondary schools should offer at least three types of high school courses—a process referred to as "streaming":

1. A matriculation course, leading to post-secondary education and the professions.
2. A general course for the large average group of students, some of whom may go to college, but more likely would become skilled office employees or technicians.
3. A technical or vocational course for those who cannot master the academic content of the above, and whose main reason for remaining in school beyond the elementary level is to secure training to fit them for a semi-skilled trade.

All courses should be rich in content and challenging. Counsellors should help the students select the right courses, from which transfer must be provided if desired.

**M**R. FERGUSON'S address was given to the group studying curricula. The other workshops dealt with role of the home in education, financing education, quantity and quality of teachers, edu-

by RUTH GILL



cating the handicapped and gifted child, higher education, buildings and equipment, and education for leisure. Agriculture's representatives to these were Mrs. C. T. Armstrong, president, Farm Women's Union of Alberta; Mrs. Arthur Hudson, president, women's committee, Ontario Federation of Agriculture; Miss Veronica McCormick, Dairy Farmers of Canada; Rev. J. A. Gillis, N.S. Federation of Agriculture; J. E. Brownlee, United Grain Growers; Mr. Leslie Hancock, Canadian Horticultural Council; Dr. H. H. Hannam and David Kirk, president and secretary, respectively, Canadian Federation of Agriculture; L. L. Gray, the Saskatchewan Federation; and R. A. Stewart, Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

**Home in Education.** In presenting its report, the home group asked that the possibility of incorporating a nursery school program into the public school system be investigated; that adult education programs be expanded and enriched; that the CBC be commended for its school telecasts and encouraged to continue; and that university costs be distributed so as not to be the overwhelming burden they are now to many Canadian families.

In this workshop were the conference's two W.I. delegates: Mrs. John McLean, Pictou County, N.S., "getting ideas for national study groups," and Mrs. Herbert Ellard, vice-president of the Quebec Women's Institutes. Mrs. Ellard was distressed about the loss of national serenity, contentment and understanding of nature that is accompanying the dwindling of rural population. She asked the group to consider ways in which the best of the rural way of life could be saved.

**Financing Education.** The Finance workshop heard that the total expenditure on Canadian education in 1957 was \$989 million—\$60 per capita, or \$164 for each member of our labor force, and that \$125 was spent by each such member on cars. It was evident that more of our money could go toward education.

Dean M. E. LaZerte, University of Manitoba, told them, "Over the country as a whole, 65 per cent of the cost of elementary and secondary education comes directly from property taxes. This is not a fair basis. Real property does not represent real wealth to the same extent that it did in pioneer days when this system was established."

The workshop agreed, and on the final day asked the assembly to vote on this resolution: "Be it resolved that in the opinion of this Conference, the tax load on real property in support of education has reached a point beyond which further taxation of this nature would be unreasonable and, therefore, other sources of revenue for education must be found."

A delegate from the Toronto Board of Trade, concerned with urban taxation, spoke against this resolution and it was defeated. No one from Agriculture rose to offer an amendment, and so one of the real sore points in rural education was left in its unhealthy condition.

**Quantity and Quality of Teachers.** Mrs. C. T. Armstrong was determined to make this workshop understand the problems of rural education, and succeeded in having the following reso-

lution passed: "Whereas children in rural areas are entitled to the same standard of education as children in urban areas; be it resolved that, where necessary, provision be made to supply qualified teachers to schools in rural areas, possibly by the payment of a bonus or other form of extra compensation."

**Special Needs.** From those studying education of the handicapped and gifted child came recognition that today the school systems tend to level all pupils to the average, over-teaching and underchallenging the academically gifted. Some type of segregation may be necessary to preserve the gifted child's initiative.

**Higher Education.** In this workshop reference was made to the recently published Industrial Foundation on Education report which said, in effect, "It is impractical to raise student fees above their present level. Business, industry and governments must increase their contributions to education."

**Buildings and Equipment.** Delegates to the workshop on this subject heard that the newest schools have no basements, attics or expensive trim, and that all schools must consider seriously the installation of television as a teaching aid.



Mrs. W. C. Taylor  
"Teach them to read well."

**Education for Leisure** is necessary in Canada, said workshop chairman Walter Herbert, of The Canada Foundation. "In no other modern country has the 'virtue of work' been such a strong motivation in shaping outlook. We have no training for creative use of our leisure time, nor have we in many cases the attitude needed." All Canadians must face added leisure brought on by modern machinery, earlier retirement, and the increase of life expectancy.

Mrs. W. C. Taylor, a director of the Alberta Farmers' Union and a member of the Alberta Royal Commission on Education, said that if children can learn to read well, they have one of the most important leisure activities available to them the rest of their lives. The workshop agreed, and approved a resolution requesting better library facilities for all of Canada.

A RESOLUTION requesting government assistance for adult education program financing was introduced by Dr. Hannam. In all workshops,

there were calls for more Provincial or Federal government spending.

What were the Conference's accomplishments? The findings were not new to many persons, but this was the first time such a cross-section of Canadians had discussed them. The Conference proceedings will be assembled in a book, and thus provide for further study by others the latest statistics and pertinent thought on Canadian education.

Dr. Hilda Neatby, whose book "So Little for the Mind" (1953) is credited by some thinkers with having started the movement which grew into this Canadian Conference on Education, was pleased with the attention paid to curriculum's intellectual content. She also approved the move toward high school "streaming."

Many were pleased to meet and talk with French delegates. The Conference emphasized a desire for national harmony by passing a resolution recommending that the study of French (or English, in French language schools) in elementary grades begin at as early an age as possible. Grade III was mentioned.

The Conference organizing officially began slightly over a year ago, took on 19 sponsoring groups, including the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and ended with more than 70 organizations participating. The central executive is to carry on until government, industry and other responsible leaders have been informed of the Conference's decisions.

Such a body cannot but influence these groups to spend more money on education. But the real worth of the conference lies with the individual delegate. Now he has an opportunity to persuade promising students to enter the vocational schools and universities to which money will be given. Now he must excite public interest enough to impress on responsible groups the real need for enlarging education facilities for the average adult Canadian, the handicapped child, and the teacher.

Rural organizations wishing to hear a delegate or receive his report might contact the provincial office of the Canadian School Trustees' Association, the IODE, the Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Council of Women, Canadian Teachers' Federation, Women's Institutes, the Canadian Legion, Canadian Association for Adult Education, or the Canadian Mental Health Association, all of whom were represented and should be eager to oblige. V



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## What's for Dinner, Mom?

Sometimes Mom wonders too. It's not always easy to think up new ideas to satisfy those appetites, which seem to need satisfying at all hours of the day. If you've tried any of The Country Guide recipes lately, or any of our homemaking ideas, why not let us have your comments at The Country Guide, Winnipeg 12, Man.



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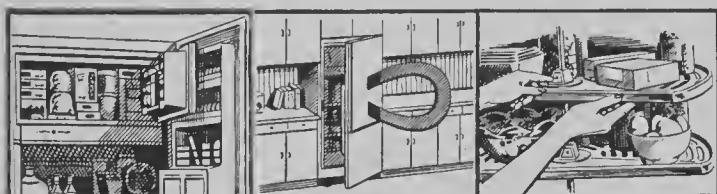


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## Breads add Glamour

... to Your Simplest Meals



[Pan-American Coffee Bureau photo]

*Looking for something to tempt winter-tired appetites? Here are some delectable rolls and coffee cakes from two basic yeast doughs*

by GLENORA PEARCE

THE fragrance of bread baking in the oven is one symbol of hearth and home, of family life, of hospitality and of contentment. This delicious aroma, as much as the eating of bread itself, should make any woman enjoy baking breads and rolls, because baking really yields great satisfaction in relation to the small effort it requires.

In these busy modern days, the homemaker often likes to let the baker do some of her baking for her. Because baking is his business, he can provide a great variety of bread and rolls from which you may choose the kinds that best suit your needs and your family's preferences. But, remember baking at home can be fun. Here are some recipes and hints designed to help you bake breads and rolls and to enjoy them to the fullest extent.

First some "crumbs of wisdom" that might be of help to you in your yeast bread making.

- In most recipes today, active dry yeast will be used. This yeast works best at 110° to 115°F. Since temperature is so important, the use of a thermometer would be helpful. If a thermometer is not available, a few drops of the water should be placed on the wrist. Water at 110° to 115° will feel warm.

- To prevent cooling down of your yeast mixture, it is a good idea to rinse your mixing bowl in hot water before mixing the dough.

- A temperature of 85°F. is best for the dough during the rising period. If the dough becomes too warm, the bread will have a dark color, a coarse texture, and a "yeasty" or sour flavor. When the dough is

too cold, the bread will be heavy, solid and small in volume. If your kitchen is cold, try placing the dough in a closed cupboard with a pan of hot water beside it.

- If you have difficulty with over-browning, particularly in coffee cakes, cover them with brown wrapping paper for the last 10 minutes of baking.

- For an attractive glaze, mix together one slightly beaten egg yolk and a half cup of water. This mixture is brushed or patted on sweet rolls before baking.

- To glaze buns, brush them with milk or slightly beaten egg-white and sprinkle with white sugar just before they are completely baked. Then return them to the oven for just a minute to glaze.

### Basic Sweet Dough

Yield—3½ doz. rolls

2 pkg. active dry yeast	½ c. sugar
¼ c. water	2 tsp. salt
1 c. milk, scalded	2 eggs
¼ c. shortening	5 c. sifted flour (approx.)

Soften the yeast in lukewarm water. Scald the milk. Add sugar, salt and shortening. Cool to lukewarm. Add sufficient flour to make a thick batter. Add the softened yeast and the well beaten eggs. Beat well. Add enough more flour to make a soft dough. Turn out on a lightly floured board and knead until smooth and satiny. Place the dough in a greased bowl. Cover and let rise in a warm place until double in bulk (about 1½ hours). When light, punch down. Let rest 10 minutes. Shape into desired tea rings, rolls, or coffee cakes. Let rise until double in bulk (about 1 hour). Bake in a moderate oven (350°F.) 30 minutes for coffee cakes, 25 minutes for pan rolls, and 20 minutes for individual rolls.



### Bubble Loaf

This loaf will require half of the dough from the basic sweet dough recipe.

Divide the dough into pieces about the size of a walnut. Shape these into balls. Place one layer of the balls  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch apart, on the bottom of a greased loaf pan ( $8\frac{1}{2}$  by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches). Arrange a second layer on top of the first, placing over spaces in the first layer. Arrange a third layer of balls of dough. Pour the caramel glaze over all. Let rise until double in bulk (about 1 hour). Bake in a moderate oven ( $350^{\circ}\text{F.}$ ) 35 to 40 minutes. Allow the loaf to stand in the pan for 5 minutes before turning out.

### Caramel Glaze

$\frac{1}{4}$ c. dark corn syrup	1 T. melted butter
$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. lemon extract	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients and mix thoroughly.

### Fan Tans

Roll out dough to form a rectangle 12 by 10 inches and  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick. Loosen the dough several times during rolling to make sure the dough does not shrink. Brush with melted butter. With sharp greased knife cut dough in five 2-inch strips lengthwise. Pile the strips on top of each other, buttered side up. Using the sharp knife cut into 9 pieces of even size. Using quick heavy strokes with the knife will prevent the dough from stretching and will keep the pieces even. Place each in a greased muffin tin, cut sides up, and separating the slices slightly at the top. Cover with a damp tea towel or cloth and let rise until double in bulk. When ready to bake, the buns should be at the top of the pan or slightly higher. Place rolls in a preheated oven ( $375^{\circ}\text{F.}$ ) and bake for 20 minutes. Remove from the oven. Turn out on a wire rack and brush the tops with melted butter.

### Jack Horner Rolls

Yield—3 doz. rolls

1 recipe basic sweet dough	1 tsp. cinnamon
36 prunes	Confectioner's icing sugar
6 T. sugar	

When the basic sweet dough is light, punch down and let rest for 10 minutes. Divide the dough into pieces the size of an egg. Shape each portion into a ball and flatten. Into the center of each portion of dough, place a pitted, cooked prune. Mix the sugar and cinnamon together and sprinkle  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of this mixture over each prune. Bring the edges of the dough together and seal. Now

place the rolls, smooth side up, 2 inches apart on a greased baking sheet. Let rise until double in bulk (about 45 minutes). Bake in a moderate oven ( $350^{\circ}\text{F.}$ ) for 25 minutes. Garnish with confectioner's icing sugar.

### Oatmeal Refrigerator Rolls

Yield—4-5 dozen

2 pkg. dry yeast	2 tsp. salt
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. water	5-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. sifted enriched flour
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. milk, scalded	2 eggs, beaten
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. shortening	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. quick cooking oats
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. brown sugar	

Soften the yeast in the lukewarm water. Pour the scalded milk over the shortening, sugar and salt. Stir this mixture until the shortening melts. Cool to lukewarm. Stir in 1 cup of the sifted flour and the beaten eggs. Then add the softened yeast. Fold in the rolled oats and then stir in enough flour to make a soft dough.

Turn dough out on a lightly floured board and knead until satiny (about 10 minutes). Round the dough into a ball, and place in a greased bowl, brushing lightly with melted shortening. Cover with waxed paper and a damp cloth. Refrigerate overnight or for as long as 3 or 4 days. Remove the dough from the refrigerator and punch down. Form into rolls of desired shape. Let rise and bake in a hot oven ( $400^{\circ}\text{F.}$ ) 15 to 20 minutes. This dough may be divided to make 1 coffee cake and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen rolls.

### Peach Braid Coffee Cake

Filling

$\frac{1}{4}$ c. brown sugar	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cinnamon
$\frac{1}{2}$ c. quick cooking oats	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. nutmeg
2 T. melted butter	1 c. canned peaches

Mix the brown sugar, rolled oats, cinnamon, nutmeg and melted butter together. Drain and slice the canned peaches.

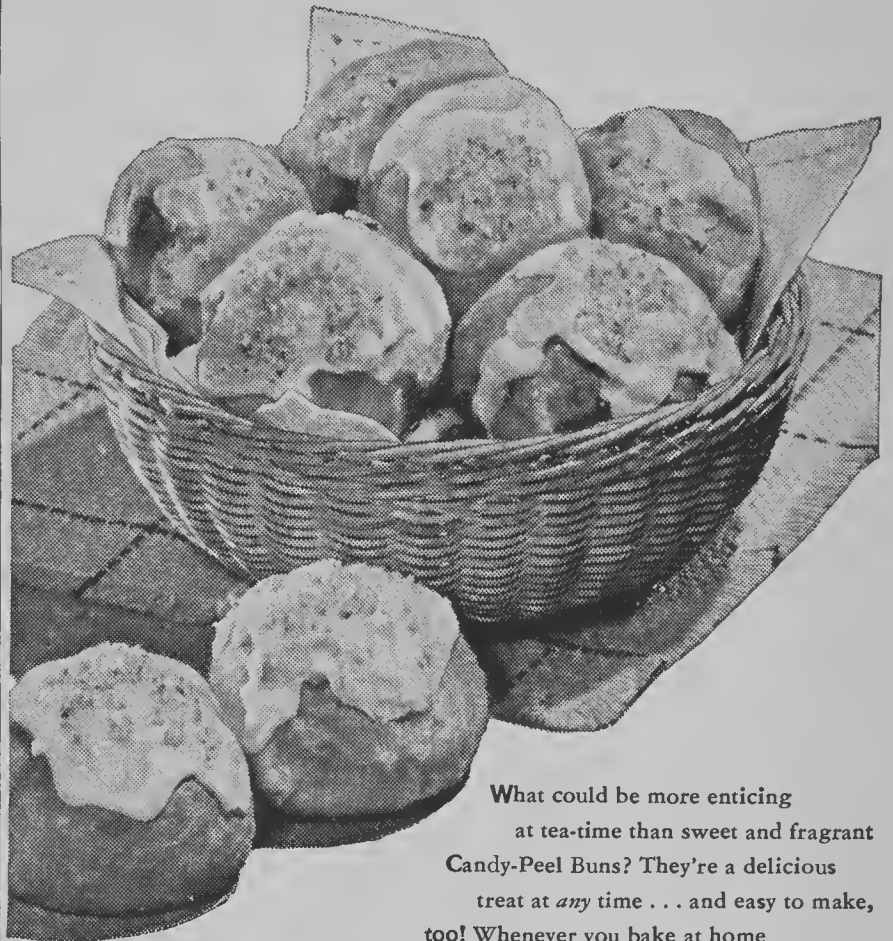
Using about one-quarter of the dough from the oatmeal refrigerator roll recipe, form a 6 by 18 inch rectangle. Cut one-half of the rectangle into three 9-inch strips, leaving them attached at the center.

Spread half of the crumb filling on the uncut half of the rectangle to within  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch of the edge. Lay three rows of peaches, lengthwise on top of the filling. Sprinkle with the remaining crumb filling.

Now braid the three strips of dough over the filling. Tuck the ends of the strips under the bottom layer and seal to wide parts of braid by moistening edges and then pinching together.

Place in a greased 7 by 11 inch pan. Brush with melted shortening. Cover and

## Sweet-tooth treasures! CANDY-PEEL BUNS



What could be more enticing at tea-time than sweet and fragrant Candy-Peel Buns? They're a delicious treat at any time . . . and easy to make, too! Whenever you bake at home depend on Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast for wonderful results every time. Surprise your family with this toothsome treat tomorrow.

### CANDY-PEEL BUNS

Measure into bowl

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup lukewarm water

Stir in

2 teaspoons granulated sugar

Sprinkle with contents of

2 envelopes Fleischmann's Active Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well.

Meantime, sift together into a bowl

1 $\frac{1}{2}$  cups once-sifted all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons granulated sugar

Mix in

$\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon ground cardamom seeds

Cut in finely

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup chilled shortening

and mix in

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped candied peel

Combine

3 well-beaten eggs  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon vanilla

and dissolved yeast.

Stir into flour mixture and beat until smooth

and elastic. Cover with a damp cloth. Let rise in warm place, free from draft, until doubled in bulk, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Stir down batter.

Work in an additional

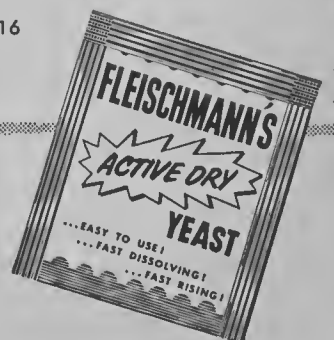
1 $\frac{1}{2}$  cups (about) once-sifted all-purpose flour

Turn out dough onto a large square of cheesecloth; gather edges of cheesecloth together loosely and tie. Drop dough into a large pan of cool, but not chilled water and let stand until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes. Remove dough from cheesecloth and place on very-well-floured board or canvas. Form into a 16-inch roll; cut roll into 16 equal pieces; form into smooth balls. Place, well apart, on greased cookie sheets. Brush with melted butter or margarine. Cover. Let rise until doubled in bulk, about 25 minutes. Bake in a hot oven,  $425^{\circ}$ , 12 to 15 minutes.

Frost while warm with the following icing and sprinkle with chopped nuts.

Combine 1 cup sifted icing sugar and  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon vanilla; add sufficient milk to make a stiff icing.

Yield: 16 buns.



Needs no refrigeration  
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Keeps fresh for weeks



[J. Walter Thomson photo]

Golden crowned fan tans, elegant version of the dinner roll, made in such a way that it is possible to peel off buttery layers of fluffy roll, one by one.





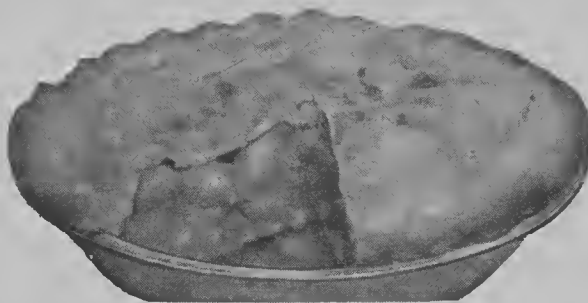
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### The Mechanized Home

A lot is said about mechanized farming, but the tremendous increase in household appliances in recent years has been as spectacular, and is gradually easing the homemaker's burden. The Country Guide, both in the editorial and advertising columns, is keeping readers abreast of the latest equipment for taking the backache out of many household chores. If you want to know more, don't hesitate to drop a line to The Country Guide, 1760 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg 12, Man.



231-56

let rise until double in bulk (about 45 minutes). Bake in a hot oven (400°F.) for 10 minutes; reduce the heat to 375°F. and bake 20 to 25 minutes longer. Frost and decorate with peach slices.

### Pineapple Spiral Rolls

Make a filling by combining 2 cups of crushed pineapple and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar and cooking this over a low heat until thickened (about 15 minutes). Cool thoroughly.

Take one-half of the dough made in the refrigerator oatmeal rolls and form

a rectangle 14 by 19 inches. Spread with two tablespoons of melted butter. Spread the pineapple filling over the yeast dough. Roll the dough lengthwise as for a jelly roll. Cut into  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch slices. Place on a greased baking pan, leaving a little space between each roll. Brush with melted shortening. Cover and let rise until double in bulk (about 45 minutes). Bake in a hot oven (400°F.) 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from the pans immediately.

## Dental Dilemmas

*What causes tooth decay? Is the dentist working for or against you? Why hesitate about seeking his advice?*

by MARION HARLAND

**A** BULLETIN from the Department of National Health and Welfare states that 3 out of 4 Canadians receive no regular dental care, visiting the dentist only to have teeth extracted. Do you belong to this group? If so, why?

"Everytime I go to a dentist he hurts me," alibis a young westerner. "Besides," he says, "it isn't possible to have regular appointments because I have to travel a long way to find a dentist."

Why don't dentists set up practice in country towns? A prominent dental authority threw up his hands when asked this. "We can't get them out of the cities because they make more money here. You would be surprised at the list I could give you of booming towns that won't support a dentist."

In some provinces there are government-sponsored dental clinics that travel from school to school in outlying districts, setting up chairs in the basement and inviting the teacher to send the youngsters "below." This service may have been requested by the W.I., a service club, sports organization, or the school board, yet for most children being allowed to go "below" has all the earmarks of a conspiracy, and they have little trust in dentists from that time on. However, this is often the only way some children will receive dental care, and very few parents should object to

such an examination of their child's mouth.

According to the American Dental Association about 1 out of every 3 children entering the first grade has a permanent tooth so badly decayed that extraction is required. It recommends that parents take their child to a dentist when about three years of age. Introduction to a dentist at this stage has a twofold benefit. First, small cavities can be detected in baby teeth and filled so that the teeth can be saved and possible irregularities or crookedness in the permanent teeth avoided. Second, this is an excellent way to acquaint the child with a dentist's office so that future visits will not be such a strain on all involved.

Dentists today spend 40 per cent of their time repairing the ravages of decay. If people would have regular check-ups, more time could be spent on preventive dentistry. The profession hopes that in 10 years dentists will be spending more time on prevention—such as, instruction on care of the teeth, and X-raying to detect cavities—and the rehabilitation of mouths damaged by disease. If they achieve this aim, permanent teeth really could be possible for children growing up in the 1960's.

**W**HAT is the cause of tooth decay? Actual holes are said to be dissolved in the enamel by lactic acid, manufactured by bacteria that live exclusively on starch and sugar. The



*Dentists spend 40 per cent of their time repairing the ravages of tooth decay. They would like to have more opportunity to help people prevent dental disease.*

## Hints to Remember

by LOUISE PRICE BELL

To keep a ball of yarn from bobbing about as you knit, draw the yarn from the center, instead of from the outside. To roll the ball, so that yarn will pull out from the center, hold a 6-inch length in the palm of your hand with the third and fourth fingers, while starting the ball on the extended first and second ones. After a ball is well started, slip off the two fingers and start winding; part of the 6-inch length will be left exposed when winding is completed.

Before laying your knitting down, slip a small cork on the ends of the needles; stitches can't slide off. Or,

slip a large safety pin through the last loop to keep the stitches in place.

When making something that requires more than one kind of yarn, cut notches in a large piece of heavy cardboard and wind yarn around in the niches. All the colors will then be handy as you change from one to another.

If you do a great deal of knitting and have much yarn, keep your scraps in glass jars where they will be free from moths, clean, and easily visible. Cellophane bags are also good for this purpose.

When knitting a child's sweater, overcast some of the seams with extra bits of yarn. If the sweater needs to

be mended later, the extra yarn is available, and in the same shade as the sweater, since it was washed with it each time.

If you have a door that won't stay open, make a door-stop by covering a brick; first with a piece of old quilt, then with a fabric that matches the carpet, or some chair in the room.

If you slip the negatives under the snapshots in your photo album, they will always be there, ready for new prints, when you want them.

Empty the contents of the vacuum cleaner onto damp newspaper; the dust will cling to it and be less apt to blow or scatter. Place the paper over the mouth of bag before inverting it.

North American habit of ending a meal with a sweet dessert instead of fruit or cheese can probably be blamed for the high rate of tooth decay on this continent. Eskimos who live mainly on seal meat and blubber have good teeth until introduced to the white man's diet.

Raw fruits and vegetables, and firm meats help clean off the teeth. Dentists describe whole peeled oranges as "nature's toothbrush," because they help rid the teeth of foods that form destructive acids when not brushed or washed off immediately. When a child is to be rewarded for being good, it is a good plan to give him fruit, milk, or fruit juice, rather than cookies or candy that might stay in the teeth. Psychology also enters the picture here. Children who receive sweets for good behavior tend to associate them with love, and fall back on them unconsciously all through life, to the detriment of their teeth.

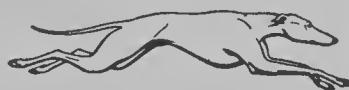
To develop sound teeth it is important that a person have plenty of calcium and vitamin D, the "sunshine vitamin." It is especially important for expectant mothers to have plenty of vitamins and milk for it is in the final months of pregnancy that the baby teeth are laid down, and a tooth well coated with enamel will stand a great deal of neglect.

VITAMIN D can be found in cod-liver oil, egg yolk, oil, fish, liver, and dairy products. Two other vitamins important to developing good teeth are A and C; A is found in most fats and green vegetables, and C can be had from citrus fruits, many vegetables, and liver.

The longer carbohydrates (starches and sugar) lie in your mouth, the more damage they do. Toothpaste manufacturers advise brushing after every meal, with their particular product, of course. But according to our dental authority, "It's not what you use to brush your teeth, but when and how you use it." For instance: if one person brushed his teeth with water immediately after eating, and another brushed his teeth with toothpaste an hour after eating, the water treatment would have done the most good. If you are dining out, rinsing the mouth out with water after a meal is better than no care at all. As for the actual brushing action, the object is to dislodge particles stuck in or between the teeth, not necessarily to get a good shine.

For the past few years controversy has raged in the cities over the merit of putting fluorides in the drinking water. The dental associations have backed this move, and evidence is now at hand to show that fluoridated water has helped cut down cavities. Some dentists also apply sodium fluoride directly to children's teeth, a preventive treatment which requires four weekly visits to the dentist, and recommended when children are 3, 7, 10 and 13 years of age. After just four treatments with sodium fluoride, decay in children's teeth has been shown to decrease as much as 40 per cent.

Cavities always grow—they never heal. Usually a dentist will recommend twice yearly inspection of the teeth for children and adults. Often he will find nothing to be done, except to give the teeth a good cleaning to deter further decay.



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# Sing a Song of Washday



by JULIA MANN

*Some laundry helps for your wash and wear wardrobe*

MANY homemakers regard the process of washing and ironing clothes as such a dreaded task that washday is commonly called "blue Monday." Perhaps some special attention to laundry methods will help provide a sunnier and more cheerful laundry day.

The sorting of clothes may be the first step where time and energy can be saved. A good idea is to begin the sorting by being comfortable. This can be accomplished by having the table, counter, rack or cardboard boxes at a convenient height. Sorting on the floor really isn't a good idea because the laundry gets dirtier and there is unnecessary stooping and bending. Calamities can be prevented by emptying pockets and cuffs, closing slide fasteners, and removing ornaments, pins, buckles, non-washable buttons, shoulder pads, ties, and belts.

Another time saver is to put aside frayed and torn items for mending because washing is likely to increase the damage. During the sorting process, a check made for stains, followed by the application of the correct removal method, will probably save later grief. Remember, too, the day is past when all kinds of fabrics can be washed in one load. Sorting has taken on an even greater significance with the introduction and widespread use of so many new synthetic fibers.

Washing, not too long ago, was a standard procedure requiring the use of hot water. Today, homemakers need to know the characteristics of fabrics and finishes in order to decide the correct laundering procedure. How soiled, and how much they are soiled, also should be taken into consideration.

Laundering of today's fabrics might be likened to today's pie crusts. There is the good old flour-lard variety of crust that must have a high baking temperature for both appearance and palatability. On the other hand, there is the graham cracker-butter type of crust that can be "baked" in either the range or refrigerator, according to the desired result. In the fabric field, the synthetics could be considered as falling into the latter class. For nylon, daeron, and other heat-sensitive, manufactured fibers, if lightly soiled, a cold water wash may be the best. An advantage of cold water washing is that it minimizes wrinkles, especially deep-set ones in "wash and wear" fabrics. However, a big part of the household washing still consists

of cotton items which tend to be soiled the most, and, for these, hot water is essential for good washing.

A new product—a textile or fabric softener—is now available, and will restore a new look to household washables. A little fabric softener, such as Fleecy, when added to the final rinse, reduces wrinkles, eliminates those deep-set creases, makes ironing easier and faster, keeps colors bright and clear, and white things whiter.

Deep pile fabrics stay soft and fluffy when Fleecy is used. This was demonstrated recently at the Home Economics Open House at the University of Manitoba. Visitors were given the opportunity to compare bath towels which were laundered with and without this rinse agent. Everyone very easily recognized the Fleecy-rinsed towel as being the fluffier of the two. This means a lot in laundering bath towels, chenille bedspreads, diapers, corduroys, woolens, and knitted things of all kinds.

Also, some of the fabric softeners eliminate static electricity from the fabric, and this characteristic prevents skirts from clinging and riding up. White nylon slips are prone to attract soil, but when the static electricity is eliminated, the attraction is broken. These fabric softeners form a lubricating coating on each strand of yarn and fiber in the material.

Directions for using the fabric softener must be followed carefully for satisfactory results. Its nature is such that it is attracted and adheres to the fabric, so you need to swish the clothes through the rinse for 2 or 3 minutes. This procedure should be followed regardless of whether you hand or machine wash. The amount of softener to use depends on the number of pounds of clothes being washed, rather than on the capacity of the tub or the amount of water used. It makes no difference whether the water is soft or hard.

Hard water can cause other difficulties in the laundry. If you have trouble with your clothes turning yellow or gray it might be caused by hard water and soap film. Water must be conditioned correctly to give just the right amount of suds to ensure a good wash, but in many areas, the water contains large amounts of mineral deposits which give it hardness. These minerals are greedy for soap and combine with it in the water to form floating, insoluble particles.

This "combined" soap is wasted, so that more soap must be added to form the necessary suds. And this isn't all that happens. The film that forms will cling to clothes, and will leave a ring in the bathtub or dishpan, and streaks on glassware.

A water softener is the answer to this difficulty. In hard water areas, a water softener makes your housework easier, cuts washing time almost in half, and it saves soap, too! You may find that you will use from one-quarter to three-quarters less soap, depending on water hardness and degree of softening.

There are two methods for softening water. One is to use a mechanical water softener, and the other is by means of a packaged water softener or chemicals. The University of Saskatchewan recommends a household zeolite softener where there is a pressure system. Zeolite is a mineral, sand-like in appearance, which has the ability of replacing the calcium and magnesium in hard water with sodium, which does not cause hardness. When the sodium in zeolite has been used up, the zeolite must be regenerated with common salt, called sodium chloride.

The ordinary household zeolite softener is 8 to 12 inches in diameter and stands 4 to 6 feet high. These are available from almost any plumber or hardware dealer. Before purchasing a zeolite softener it is desirable to have the water analyzed. Your provincial

university probably has a department that will do this for you. Most of the commercial companies supplying softeners should provide this service free of charge, and on the basis of the test results, will recommend the size and type of the softener that will meet your requirements.

Many rural homes do not have a pressure system and must depend on rain water or well water from a cistern or tank. Reasonably soft water can generally be obtained by softening hard well water with one of numerous softening chemicals. It is simply added directly to the water. Tri-sodium phosphate is a good softener under most conditions. Other readily available softeners that may be found effective are soda ash, washing soda, ammonium carbonate and Calgon. The amount required for best results varies widely with the hardness, and also with the characteristics of the water and the softening chemical. A "non-precipitating type" water softener, such as Calgon, is recommended for use in all washers. This type of water conditioner is used with the soap or synthetic detergent, and it also can be added to the first rinse water. This helps eliminate traces of detergent which cause yellowing in your clothes.

With the help that is available in the form of new methods and products, perhaps you will be able to sing a song on your next washday. V

## Who Was Mother Goose?

by H. HOWEY

*Hey diddle-diddle, the cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon,  
The little dog laughed to see such fun—  
And the dish ran away with the spoon.*

JACK and Jill, Little Miss Muffet, Humpty - Dumpty, Little Jack Horner,—everyone, old and young, knows these little folk and loves them. But have you ever wondered how these rhymes came to be written, and who it was that gave them to the world? Here, briefly, is the story of how they originated.

In the year 1665 a girl named Elizabeth Foster was born in a village in Massachusetts. When she reached maturity she married a young policeman from the nearby town of Boston. He had a somewhat ridiculous name of Isaac Vergoose. In the course of time, the Vergoosees had a daughter who in turn married another Bostonian named Thomas Fleet. He was a printer by trade and his shop was located on Pudding Lane.

When the Fleet children began to arrive they found a very willing friend and babysitter in their grandma. So it was that Grandmother Vergoose soon became a familiar and popular figure in the Fleet home. Day after day, and particularly at bedtime, she would sing to her grandchildren the quaint songs she had picked up in all sorts of places. Some of these were folk songs she had heard in her childhood 50 years earlier. Some, it is now believed, were political lampoons, which had originated in Europe and

subsequently found their way to New England.

And how those Fleet children did enjoy their grandmother's little songs! Especially the ones about Jack and Jill, funny Humpty-Dumpty, and Old Mother Hubbard! Their father, Thomas Fleet, also enjoyed the songs, and in 1719 he printed a little booklet containing some of them, in his shop on Pudding Lane. He might have entitled the booklet, "The Songs of Mother Vergoose," but instead he called it "The Melodies of Mother Goose."

What a wonderful contribution Grandmother Vergoose and Mr. Fleet made to the children of the world. Little Miss Muffet, Jack Horner and Jack and Jill, would be known and loved by all children. Her picturesque rhymes, such as this one, will go on being sung as long as time shall last:

*Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep,  
And can't tell where to find them;  
Leave them alone, and they'll come home,  
And bring their tails behind them!*





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# Look what you and your Magic can create!

## For Brides And Their Friends

by MABEL MURPHY

IT'S hard to anticipate personal preferences when buying wedding gifts. Very often, the giver will in desperation select something that is expensive but not too practical. Because it does not fit well into her home, the bride may set this gift to one side where it gathers dust, and after a while it is not appreciated by anyone.

Are there small items which could be classed as wedding gifts, but which no one seems to consider when looking for just that? We directed this and other questions concerning gifts at brides-to-be and a recent bride.

In answer to the above, Mrs. S. said yes, and listed card tables, an ironing board, small rugs, an everyday teapot, bread board, and a deluxe kitchen garbage can. She found her Hope Chest and showers hadn't provided necessary cake and muffin tins, a good paring knife, a serrated-edge bread knife, or ash trays.

Q.: Misses F. and A., as brides-to-be of a year hence, what do you suggest a couple's parents could give them as wedding presents?

A.: Furniture would be greatly appreciated. We are collecting linens, china and flatware, and the electrical equipment will probably come from our friends and brothers and sisters.

Q.: Miss M., you are a bride-elect who over the years has gathered together quite a few home furnishings. What would you appreciate most in the way of wedding gifts?

A.: Silverware, china and crystal to complete patterns started; bed linens, table linens, and towels—mine are not very new; steak knives, a carving set, or new cookbooks; not pictures, pottery or novelties, because I have formed definite likes and dislikes about such things.

These suggestions from brides-to-be were given after considerable thought. If you, a bride-elect, still wonder if enough small household items have been assembled in the Hope Chest, check its contents for these omissions:

- Mats for hot plates
- Paper napkins
- Calendar
- Coasters
- Scissors, needles, thread, pins
- Buttons, snaps, hooks and eyes
- Hangers
- Tape measure, ruler
- Broom, dustpan
- Clothes brush
- Dust cloths
- Potholders
- Wrapping paper, twine
- Eggbeater
- Moth preventive
- Flashlight
- Candles
- Pencils, paper
- A good cookbook
- Doctor book

Whatever you collect in the Hope Chest, at showers, and as wedding gifts, it will probably be a much greater variety of items than your mother considered necessary to set up housekeeping. Perhaps it is. How about a list now to help you discard excess baggage?

### EASY - MIX LAYER CAKE

7/8 cup shortening	3/4 teaspoon salt
3 cups once-sifted pastry flour	2 cups fine granulated sugar
or 2 2/3 cups once-sifted all-purpose flour	1 1/8 cups milk
4 1/2 teaspoons Magic Baking Powder	1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
	3 unbeat eggs

Note: Have all ingredients at room temperature.

Measure shortening into mixing bowl; sift flour, Magic Baking Powder, salt and sugar over shortening. Stir in milk until blended, then beat 300 strokes or 2 minutes by hand or with electric mixer at medium speed. Add vanilla and eggs; beat another 300 strokes or 2 minutes. Turn into 3 greased 8-inch round layer cake pans, lined in the bottom with greased waxed paper. Bake in a moderately hot oven, 375°, about 1/2 hour. Let cakes stand in pans 10 minutes, then turn out on cake coolers and remove waxed paper. Fill and frost cold cakes as desired.

**Drum Cake:** To make as pictured, fill and frost the layer cake with a white butter-type icing. Use red ring candies as candle holders and to hold red "straws" used to lace drum.

It's so easy to make a perfect one-bowl Magic Party Cake. It's light, even-textured, deliciously moist, and really deserves a festive treatment like this one!

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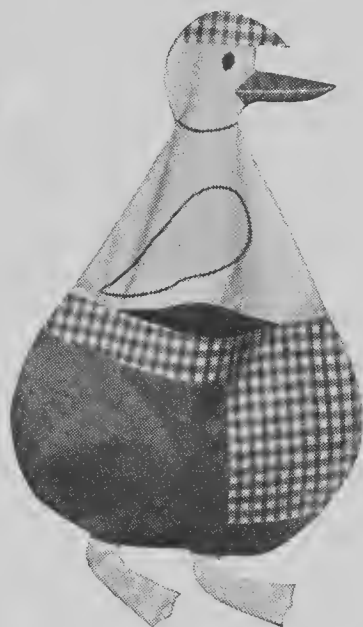


# Bazaar Novelties

Quick-selling items for the Children's and House Beautiful tables



**KINKY**—an 18-inch tall, crocheted doll whose floppiness will delight little children. Kinky will be washable if filled with nylon hose, cotton rags, or foam rubber shreds. Design No. CX-130. Price 10 cents for crochet instruction leaflet.

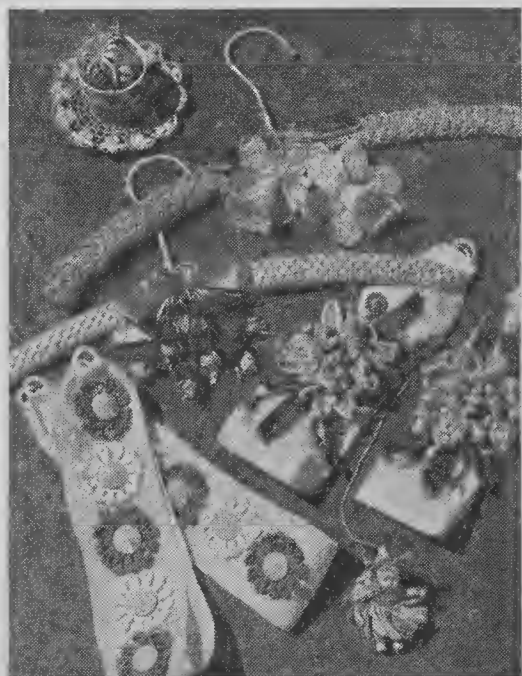


**WEBSTER** — in this instance, not a dictionary but a child's laundry bag or catchall for small toys. With Webster, the duck, hanging on their closet door, children can be taught neatness and cleanliness. Design No. S-6459. Price 10 cents for sewing instructions.



**WOOF**—the dog-faced pin cushion, made from felt. Lift his tongue tab and inside see an ideal storing place for a young sewer's needles and threads. Design No. S-5745. Price 10 cents for sewing details.

**FLOWER GARDEN** — dainty trims to brighten up a home. Instruction sheet gives full crochet requirements for daffodil hanger, fuchsia hanger, gladiola tie-back, daisy chain tie-back, candy or nut cup, and snare pull doll . . . small, colorful items that should sell like hot cakes at a bazaar. Design No. C-FV-386. Price 10 cents for explanatory leaflet.



Address orders to The Country Guide Needlework Department, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 12, Man. V

# the BIG CHANGE in ELECTRIC KETTLES by GENERAL ELECTRIC



## new Vapour Control KETTLE does more than just boil water fast!

**It's a Speed Kettle . . .** Boils 1 pint of water in just 2½ minutes.

**It's a Stay-Hot Kettle . . .** Water can be kept at gentle boil—ready for use.

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**It's a Glamorous Kettle . . .** new modern compact 2 quart design.

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Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price **\$17.50**

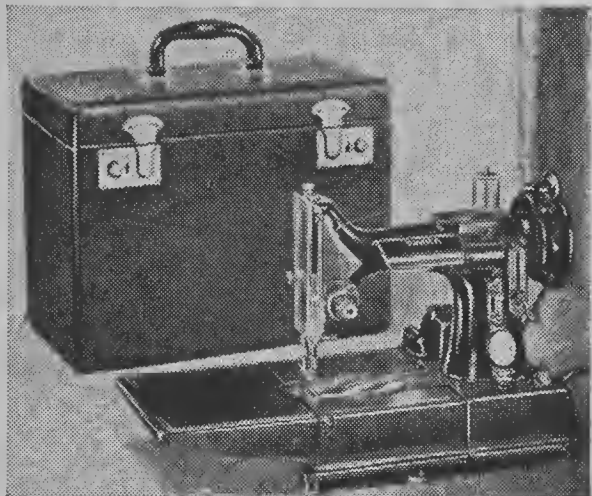


## GENERAL ELECTRIC Vapour Control KETTLE

CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED



# This SINGER FEATHERWEIGHT CONVERTIBLE does three types of sewing!



## 1

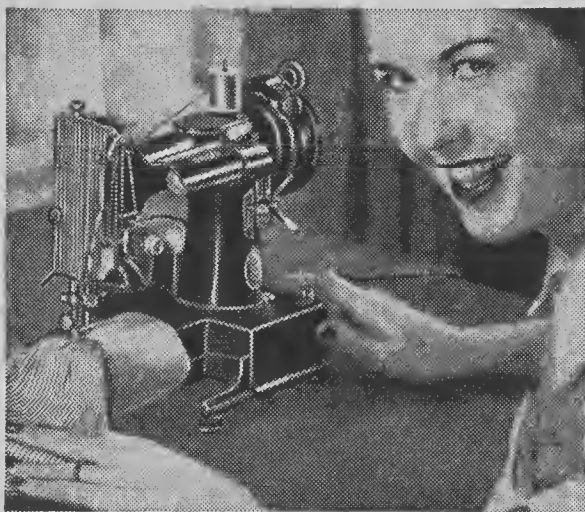
### FLAT BED MACHINE . . .

for the smoothest straight stitching! Stitches easily over bulky fabrics. This FEATHERWEIGHT\* Convertible weighs only 12 pounds, yet has all the features of a full-sized SINGER\* Sewing Machine—plus convertibility!

## 2

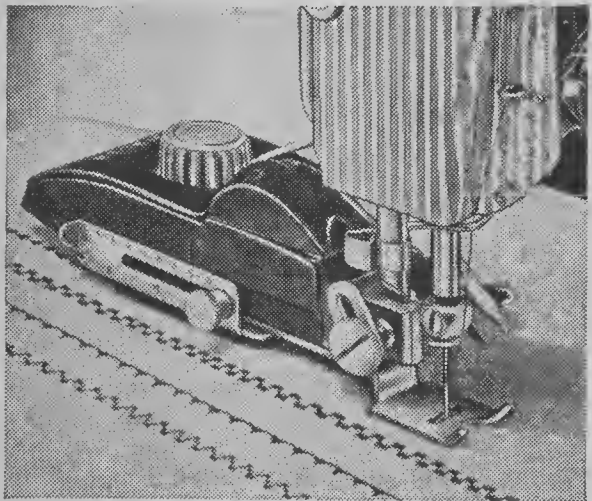
### TUBULAR BED . . . for tricky, tight-spot sewing!

Regular flat bed is built with a removable U-shaped section. Simply slide it off — there's the tubular bed — small enough to accommodate even a child's sock!



## 3

Add the SINGER\* Automatic Zigzagger (optional) . . . for hundreds of decorative stitches! Do arrow-heads, dominoes, blind stitches, zigzags . . . completely automatically!



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## The Countrywoman

*In all parts of the country, adult education programs are available to homemakers to help them adjust their living and homemaking activities to today's social needs*

ACROSS Canada, adults are being offered all kinds of opportunities to increase their skills, broaden their education, and enhance their leisure time activities through programs provided by governments, universities and private organizations.

In this modern age there are many things which can be bought ready-made, and there are many new aids to housekeeping. As these are introduced and come into general use many women find that they can do an excellent job of homemaking and still have some leisure time left over. In fact, homelife in Canada and elsewhere is undergoing considerable change. Homemakers who are aware of these changes are turning to specialists for help in a number of fields of interest.

The available range of courses for homemakers is fairly wide, and the offerings vary with the needs and interests of the community. The courses not only help women to acquire knowledge and skills in homemaking, but they help them to solve personal problems as well. Some of the subjects included in these programs are: growth and development of family members; food and nutrition; clothing and textiles; health and home care of the sick; management of family resources; and home improvement. Every province has a different organizational setup as to the sponsoring of classes, but there is an opportunity for everyone to participate.

SOME of these opportunities are provided by daily classes for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. Such a course was held at the Vocational Training School at Aneroid, Sask., this past winter. "Ours is a small and over-organized town," as one class member described it, "but four of our women's organizations got together and are sponsoring this school."

It was a success, too. The adults were really interested in class work. Young brides through to great-grandmothers turned out to afternoon classes in foods and interior decoration, and to the evening classes in the Bishop method of sewing and in handicrafts. The making of things for themselves, their families and their homes, seemed to provide the necessary incentive to miss that one week of curling to attend classes.

Millinery is one of the most popular classes among the women in Ontario.

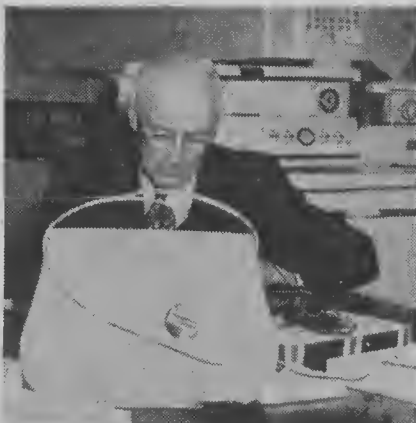


(Guide photos)  
*A busy teacher at Kindersley, Sask., has an evening adult class in leathercraft.*

Now that fashion dictates a hat to match or complement each costume, women have taken avidly to a 3-day course being provided in the province.

Handicraft guilds are providing a unique way of learning and teaching new crafts in quite a number of communities. A guild is organized at a general meeting attended by people interested in doing some type of craft work. Members then divide into sections, depending on which craft they would like to learn. Each of these sections make separate plans with an instructor (a local person who has previously learned the craft) for regular workshop meetings during the winter months. When spring comes along an "Open House Tea" is held where all the products of the sections provide a very picturesque display. The only qualification for membership in one of these handicraft guilds is to be willing to teach the craft you learn this season to a new group next year. In this way, there is never a shortage of teachers.

Adult education is on the march. You march of your own free will and choice. No entrance or exit examinations are required. No defeat is experienced. But always there is the possibility of contributing something worthwhile to home and family living. The aim of this program is to help adults with their immediate problems in order that they may be healthier and happier Canadians, and so that their communities may be better places in which to live.—G.P. V



*Handicrafts provide needed new interests for retired adults during winter.*

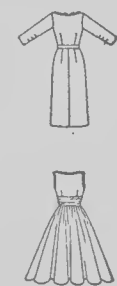


*Interested women assemble in a church hall to learn some new sewing ideas.*

# You've been invited to attend

- ... a graduation?
- ... a wedding party?
- ... an evening reception?

Would one of these Butterick styles remedy the "what to wear" problem? They may be ordered from The Country Guide Pattern Service, 1760 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg 12, Man.



8357



8511



No. 8511—The open-jacket suit . . . a special events ensemble, the dress yoked in lace. Half sizes 12½ to 24½. Price 65 cents.

No. 8357—A weightless little dress, serene in the sheath mode, or carefully bouffant. Even sizes 12-18. Price 65 cents.

No. 7987—An impressively draped gown, ribboned back and front to form shoulder-tip sleevelets. Suggested fabrics: sheer, crepe, faille, taffeta, satin, brocade. Even sizes 12-18. Price 50 cents.



7206

No. 7206—A Junior Set favorite for formal affairs. Its details: a slightly pointed waist, choice of skirt lengths, and attractively tabbed neckline. Even sizes 10-16. Price 75 cents.

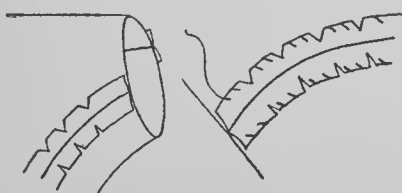


7987

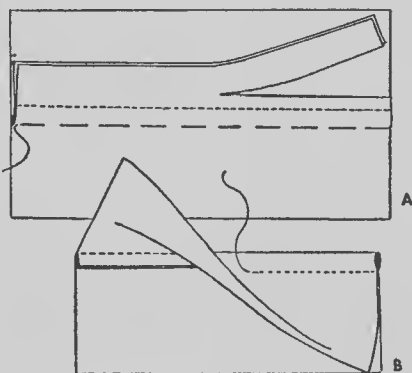
## Special Seams and Style Details

THIS spring, with "feminine prettiness" the fashion byword, there is all the more reason that your sewing should be perfect in every detail—sewing for graduation, for social events, even for everyday wear. Here are brief instructions on some of the proper methods of style detailing. Why not try including them in your new spring styles?

A curved seam is stitched as a plain seam. Then it is clipped at intervals on the curve to allow the seam edges to be flat. If the fabric will fray, the raw edges should be overcast.



French seams are the most desirable finish for all types of sheer material. Place the wrong sides of the fabric to-

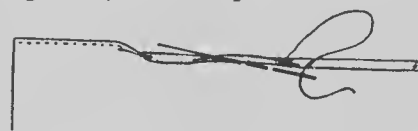


gether and baste along the seam line. Stitch by machine one-quarter inch from this basting. Now trim the seam close to the stitching, remove the bastings and press the seam to one side. Next turn the seam to the inside and baste. Stitch on the seam line and press. If the first seam has been trimmed closely, no raw edges will show on the right side.

The outline of scallop edges is traced on the fabric from the printed pattern. Now stitch the scallop seam, making one



stitch across each point. The seam allowance is clipped into each point, taking care not to clip into the stitching. Trim the seam and notch it to avoid lumpiness from excess bulk when the scallop is turned. Finally, turn the scallop to the right side, baste and press.

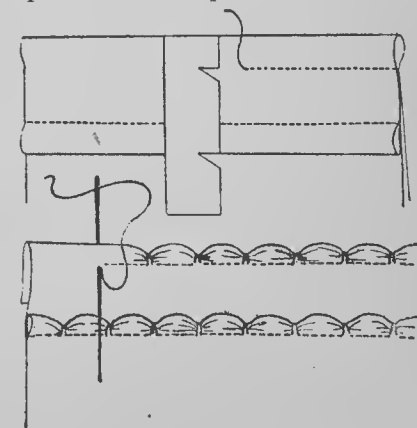


Rolled hems are used on skirts that are gored or circular. First, machine-stitch close to the cut edge to keep the fabric from stretching. Now roll the edge toward you, and catch the roll in place with slip-stitching.

Tucks are folds used to hold fullness in place or for decorative purposes. To measure tucks, try making a gauge of cardboard, cutting one notch the depth of the tuck. A second notch indicates the

space from fold to fold. Now crease or press lines in the fabric for tucking. Baste and stitch.

Shell tucks are made one-quarter of an inch deep. The shells are marked by small dots at equal intervals. The tuck between the shells is sewn with tiny running stitches. Then make two tightly drawn overhand stitches over the edge of the tuck at each marking, pulling the fabric up to form a shell pattern.



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## City Girl Wanted a Ranch



[Guide photo]

A keen fan of the local horse shows, Daneve Lyle is now a junior judge.

EVER since she was seven years old, Daneve Lyle of Calgary, Alta., has reproached her father because he wasn't a farmer or rancher. She always wanted to live on a big ranch with lots of horses and cattle. "Dannie," now a reporter with the Women's Department of the Calgary Herald, hasn't realized this ambition yet, but as an enthusiastic supporter of the annual horse shows she has watched, tended, ridden, and shown horses whenever she got the chance. This devotion to her favorite hobby received recognition last year when she was named Junior Judge at the Calgary Horse Show.

Dannie Lyle was born in the foothills City and received her elementary schooling there. When she entered the University of Alberta in 1952 she hoped to major in English and take Agriculture as her minor, with an idea of going in for agricultural journalism.

Said the Dean, "It's never been done, and you're not going to be the first to do it."

Dannie settled by majoring in English and taking all the agricultural courses she could work into her timetable—namely livestock judging and genetics—and graduated with her B.A. degree in 1955. This has been useful in her newspaper work, because even a city reporter has to cover horse shows or bull sales from time to time.

Among her horse show activities, Dannie has been an exhibitor in the Hunter classes. While showing a Thoroughbred mare named "Alga May," she grew so fond of the animal she wanted to buy her, but the owner wouldn't sell. After a few years of racing, however, the mare was retired from the track, and Dannie finally got her chance to become a horse owner. "Alga May" is now raising a family in the form of a lively three-year-old Thoroughbred, which was sired by the stallion "Valdina Streak." The sire died soon after that, making Daneve's colt the last of his line.

Although junior judges have nothing to do with the actual placing of the horses, they get valuable experience that will help them when they're ready to apply for a judge's card. The show committee only appoints young people who've had years of experience to this position, and it's considered quite an honor to be chosen. Dannie's appointment gave her the opportunity to work with distinguished judges such as Eldon J. Fairbanks of Pasadena, California, E. J. Gutschenritter of Garden Plain, Kansas, and W. J. Smith of Toronto.

Maybe the horse show-ring isn't quite the same as a ranch in the foothills, but it has something in common with the big spreads which true horse lovers can't live without. That is the music of horses' hooves. V

## Cleaning Plastics

IN the past 10 years plastic materials have really come to the fore. Now it is possible to buy literally hundreds of plastic items ranging from refrigerator containers, to salad bowls, to clothing and decorative trays. Although all these plastic items have many advantages—they are light, flexible, relatively inexpensive, unbreakable and colorful—they do require care and their own particular kind of "upkeep." The dirt-repellent properties that have made plastics so popular, prevent them from soiling quickly and make cleaning easy, but they won't stay spotless indefinitely. All plastics need regular cleaning and good care.

To simplify cleaning it's helpful to remember that household plastics are divided into two groups—the heat-sensitive (thermoplastic) and the heat-resistant (thermoset) types. Heat or hot water will cause the thermoplastic articles to lose their shape. Another point to remember is that while some plastics resist abrasion, most of those found in our homes do not. Hard scouring, therefore, should be avoided. If you are ever in doubt

about the type of plastic something is made of, use suds and lukewarm water and you will always be on the safe side.

**H**HEAT-SENSITIVE plastics include atomizers, toys, picture frames, closet accessories, lamp shades, table mats, floor and wall tiles, upholstery and drapery fabrics, shower curtains, refrigerator storage bowls, mixing bowls, waste baskets, shades, aprons and dust covers. All of these should be kept away from stoves, radiators, fireplaces and hot water and should be washed with warm suds and a cloth, sponge or brush.

If you are cleaning plastic that is slightly soiled, just squeeze a cloth or sponge out of sudsy water and wipe the plastic, being careful to overlap your strokes so that no dusty streaks remain. Then rinse with warm, clear water. If the size and shape of a heavily soiled article permit, soak it in warm suds for a few minutes, then rub the dirty areas with sponge or cloth. Rinse in clear, warm water, and air-dry.

As for shower and window curtains, those of good quality plastic will stand a little swishing in the washing machine. If you have an automatic



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washer, check to see that the water is not hotter than a 100° F. (warm water), and allow no more than 3 to 5 minutes' washing time. Also, check the directions for rinsing plastics that come with your washer, and make sure you remove them before the final spin. With wringer washers, use lukewarm water and wash carefully for about three or four minutes. Rinse and hang to dry. For drying you can use an automatic dryer if your machine has a no-heat, low temperature setting. The plastic will be soft when removed, but will harden on cooling.

Every rule seems to have an exception or two. In this case the exceptions to warm water are food-storage containers and kitchen utensils. Since these come into contact with food and are important to family health, hot suds should be used on them—as hot as your hands can stand. But don't let these plastics soak, because soaking may soften or damage them. And never put them in a dishwasher.

**H**HEAT-RESISTANT plastics are usually used for ash trays, cutlery handles, dishes, bathroom tumblers, picnicware, radio and clock cases, and jar tops. All of these items may be washed in hot water and suds. Most of them are dulled by abrasives though, so it's unwise to scour. Picnicware and tumblers are usually made of urea-type plastic and are not suited to a dishwasher. But dinnerware and other items made from melamine can be washed in a dishwasher. To remove coffee and tea stains from cups and saucers just add enough water to a half teaspoon of soda to make a paste. Rub this on the spot and let stand for a few minutes. Rinse off.

Waxing plastics (except those used for food) helps to protect them from scratches and also delays soiling. A self-polishing wax is recommended for vinyl plastic flooring. For other plastics a cream wax (cleaner-polishing type) or a paste wax may be used. Plastic upholstery is better left unwaxed since the wax has a tendency to come off on your clothes. ✓

## Health Notes

"Sit on a high stool now and then with feet resting on the top rung" is good advice for women doing household jobs in the kitchen, says the American Heart Association. In this position the knees are bent, preventing the venous blood in the thigh from flowing back down the legs and stagnating, as it will during long periods of standing. (Venous blood—that which has given up oxygen for the tissues and become charged with carbon dioxide, its next normal move to return to the respiratory organs for purification and oxygenation.) ✓

Free chest X-rays have brought to light many unsuspected cases of tuberculosis, which prompt treatment has successfully cured. Next time the mobile chest X-ray unit visits your community, have a free X-ray. ✓

A good way to help build up resistance to colds, flu and fatigue is to stick to a balanced diet, with emphasis on a good breakfast every morning. The meal should include citrus fruit juice, hot cereal, bacon or egg, toast and hot beverage. ✓

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### MORE "EASY-REACH" SPACE

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# The Country Boy and Girl

## Some Thoughts On "Citizenship"

THE present Governor General of Canada, the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, has traveled more miles, meeting more of his people, than have any other of our Governors General. He has encouraged the growth of art, literature, and music in this country. He is a Canadian, the first to be chosen Governor General.

Recently this fine man made a suggestion to his countrymen and women, and their boys and girls. He said that while we sometimes have to copy good habits and ideas from other countries, we should try always to keep the Canadian characteristics. He suggested we ask ourselves often, "Is this the Canadian way to do it?"

Just like Mr. Massey, you can be proud of Canada by accepting its laws and helping other countries accept world law. You can welcome people who have come from other countries and, when they ask, tell them of Canada's wonderful history and its freedom-seeking pioneers. You can show your pride in Canada by valuing education, studying until you are qualified to give good advice in the farm community, or perhaps in Medicine, Science or Law.

In May we will have an opportunity to observe Citizenship Day. Here is a little play about Canada that you might like to take to school to perform on that special day.

### "I Am A Canadian"

(A skit for eight speakers)

by EVE CALDER

ON separate pieces of paper, size 8" by 12" print and color the 8 large capital letters of CANADIAN.

Draw or paste on each paper several pictures associated with Canada . . . the maple leaf, a beaver, buffalo, ranch house, sheaves of wheat, wild geese, the Great Lakes, a teepee, igloo, or provincial emblems.

The speakers hold the papers behind their backs until the end of the dialogue, then each, in turn, holds his letter up to spell the word CANADIAN.

Dialogue.

1st Speaker: (Letter C behind back)  
I am a large, rich country.

I offer freedom and homes to all.

2nd Speaker: (A behind back)  
I stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific  
And from the Arctic to the United States.

3rd Speaker: (N behind back)  
I am a land of forests, prairies, and mountains.  
I offer careers in farming, fishing, mining, and other industries.

4th Speaker: (A behind back)  
I was discovered by Cartier, Cabot, and Hudson.  
British, French, Germans, Poles, Italians, many races have built me into a great democracy.

5th Speaker: (D behind back)

My people have freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and freedom of worship.

They are free to live, work and play as they choose.

6th Speaker: (I behind back)

Brown, yellow, black or white—  
All are welcome in my schools and universities.

7th Speaker: (A behind back)

Refugees find peace—  
Their music and their arts are blended with my own.

8th Speaker: (N behind back)

I am Canada.  
My citizens by birth or by adoption are proud to belong,  
To be part of a great, free country.  
Proud to be a—

(Each speaker, in turn, holds up letters to spell CANADIAN)

All Speakers: Canadian!

## The First Canadians

THE dusky redmen who were our first Canadians received their name from Columbus. He had found a new world which he believed to be part of India, and so to the only natives he saw he gave the name "Indians."

Columbus thought the Indians were one people. Historians know now that in 1492 there were more than 50 tribes in Canada alone, each speaking a different language or dialect and having its own customs.

The Indian possessed great patience and, because of this, excelled at hunting and fishing. The prairie Crees were among the most skilful hunters; the northern Chippeways were fine fishermen.

The Indian spoke slowly but easily, and his words were full of a love of nature. Some, especially those on the west coast, put their thoughts into carvings and pottery designs. The Haida tribe of British Columbia is considered to have produced some of the finest art in the world.

There has been great concern recently about the need to help the Indians. This once proud people surrendered their land, and so lost their hunting and fishing livelihood. Now we are taking them off the reservations onto which they were put, and trying to train them in the white ways. A wise man who teaches Indians says we must go slowly, and not force them to be exactly like us.

He also said that we should not refer to the Indians as "too lazy to learn," or say that an Indian lacks intelligence. "The children need to be given self-confidence. They have the ability to learn."

This year, for the first time, the Government of Canada gave special scholarships to Indian school students. Fourteen young people received the awards, and now will be able to receive business training or a college education.



[U.N. photo]  
Filipino school children line up for TB-test inoculations provided by the United Nations Children's Fund. Last Halloween Canadian youngsters were good citizens and, accepting money instead of treats, collected \$74,000 which UNICEF will use to buy medicine and food for less fortunate children around the world.

## Prize Winning Poems

YOU people certainly can write poems! The panel of judges had picked the winners and bought the prizes, when whoosh! in came the mailman with another big bundle of poems. So we extended the contest until all late entries had been considered carefully. Now the contest is officially ended, and here are the winners. Your prizes will be mailed immediately. To those who did not win, thank you for trying very hard.—THE EDITORS.

### First Prize

#### Springtime in Canada

Spring again has come today,  
Time for girls and boys to play,  
After school it's so much fun  
Picking flowers in the sun.  
Birds are busy building nests,  
Eggs are laid, then after a rest,  
Little birdies soon appear,  
Spring's the best time of the year.

—Byron Robar, Age 8, R.R. 3, New Germany, Lun. Co., N.S.

### Second Prize

#### Paradise

Darkening shadows,  
Silent trees,  
Starry sky,  
Restless breeze;  
Silvery moon  
Gliding low,  
Casting diamonds on the snow;  
Stinging frost,  
Aspens bare,  
A breathless hush upon the air;  
Cracking twigs,  
Shim'ring ice,  
A mortal's dream of Paradise!

—Ruby Lou Tomilin, Age 12, Verigin, Sask.

### Third Prize

#### Our Pines

Two tall pines  
Stand on our lawn;  
Their arms reach up  
To greet the dawn.

In the noonday sun  
Doves build a home,  
To raise their young  
Who soon will roam.

Then the saucy squirrel  
Runs up the tree;  
He nibbles a cone  
And looks down at me.

As the sun's last rays  
Go down in the west,  
The tall pine trees  
Say it's time to rest.

—Alice Marie Gibb, Age 9, R.R. 1, Corunna, Ont.

### Honorable Mention

#### Shining Flowers

It rained last night,  
And on the grass  
The flowers were like silver glass;  
When they sparkled in the dew,  
They were all a pretty blue.  
Although they were a little wet,  
They sparkled like a silver set.

—Pauline Clayton, Age 9, Box 164, Air-drie, Alta.

Other fine poems which we hope to print in future issues came from Lois Reischman, age 11, Langley, B.C.; Joyanne Polson, age 12, Bredenbury, Sask.; Judith Walter, age 12, Lethbridge, Alta., and Maureen Speers, age 7, Battleford, Sask.

# Young People

*On the farm and at home*

## Careers for You

### She Travels for 4-H



making Club's program for the province.

Her responsibilities take her to every corner of Alberta to attend leaders' courses, achievement days, rallies, club weeks and camps. At these events supervision of such activities as group discussions, workshops, recreation, and public speaking are all a part of her work.

Many 4-H club members will remember Miss Mewha as co-ordinator of the annual dress revue at National Club Week held in Toronto last November. Although travelling continually is an essential part of any extension job, it certainly doesn't affect Priscilla's love for travel, because one of her recent holidays was a trip to Hawaii. V

### Flair for Food

ONE look at smiling Elizabeth MacRae in her crisply starched white uniform, and one word with her, make you feel that here is someone who loves what she's doing—and that what she's doing counts!

Miss MacRae is a dietitian at Lancaster Veterans' Hospital in New Brunswick. Her duties are quite varied and interesting. She has the responsibility of planning special diets and menus for the patients who need these

as part of their treatment. Elizabeth's genuine liking for people, and her ability to get along with them, are real assets in her job of training non-professional help. Elizabeth also has the responsibility of cafeteria supervision, where her flair for food puts her in good stead.

To qualify as a dietitian, Elizabeth acquired a university degree in Home Economics, and followed this with dietetic internship at the Toronto General Hospital. What is a dietetic internship? It's the period in training when a girl puts into practice what she has learned about dietetics at college. Just as a doctor takes an internship before he begins to practice medicine, so a dietitian takes a dietetic internship for experience and for qualification in the Canadian Dietetic Association.

All this busy life as a dietitian still leaves Elizabeth time to travel by car around the Atlantic Provinces and Eastern States, and a trip to Europe, too. V



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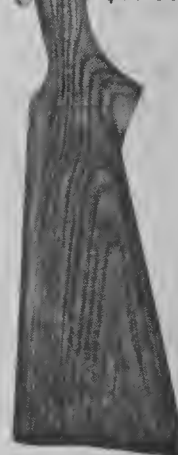
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## The Bar E Calf Sale

by HARRY DUNN

Soon clipping sessions will begin—in readiness for 4-H Achievement day.

[Bob Taylor photo]



"WILL ya gimme a half . . . do I hear a half . . . do yuh want it at a half?" sang out auctioneer Jock Blacklock, as he took up his "chant" on No. 703 at the Bar E Hereford Calf Sale.

"Ninety I've got. Who'll make it ninety-five? Here's a fine calf! Look at that back. There's champion material! One-fifty I've got. Who'll make it one-seventy-five? . . . one-seventy-five . . . one-seventy-five. Down comes the gavel. . . Sold to Tim Johnson." And so another 4-H club member becomes the proud owner of a Bar E calf.

This sale has become an annual event at the Bar E Hereford ranch

near Wawanesa, Man. Elwood Downie, the owner, opened the sale with presentations to the 4-H club members, who had won prizes during the past year with former Bar E calves. At this sale there were 96 calves to be sold. It attracted over 400 buyers and spectators, who came long distances because Bar E livestock is widely and favorably known. People came from beyond the Saskatchewan border, from as far north as Dauphin, from the east as far as Emerson and from as far south as Bottineau, N.D.

Keen interest is always displayed among the buyers in the tightly

packed bleachers, and bids are snapped out spontaneously. Mr. Downie estimates that 80 per cent of his steer calves are bought by 4-H club members. Many of these boys and girls make their own selection from the calves offered for sale. They then feed and train the animals and show them at spring achievement days. Perhaps they will go on to win a Champion or Reserve Champion rating at their district rally or a major show, such as those held at Brandon and Regina.

Physical set-up for the calf sale is unique. A big tent 30 by 45 feet houses the show-ring. From three sides tiers of seats rise to provide comfortable seating for 350 people. The fourth side of the ring abuts the big stable where the calves are housed. The auctioneer's stand is located in the center of the fourth side, and is equipped with microphone and P.A. system. The ring is brilliantly lighted, giving one the impression of a well appointed sports arena.

Records kept by Mr. Downie indicate that Bar E buyers tend to become regular customers. Several have come back for 3, 4 and even 5 years in succession to pick a calf for their 4-H club entry. One family, the Elgin Pritchards of Roland, Man., have bought calves in each of the 7 years that the sale has been held. Mr. Downie believes that boys and girls, in feeding and training calves for the various events, receive valuable training themselves, and lay foundations which serve them well in later years. V





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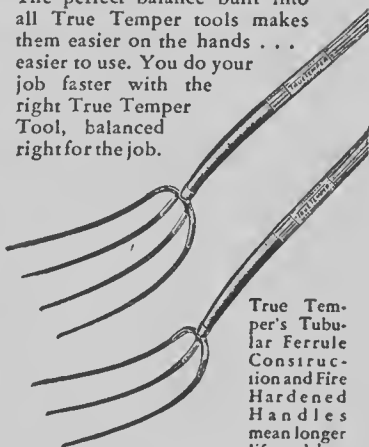
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## What Farm Organizations Are Doing

Continued from page 10

The Saskatchewan Farmers' Union reports that joint meetings with federal election candidates, sponsored in the various constituencies of the province, have turned out most successfully. Of the 16 joint meetings called, attendances have ranged between 100 and 400 persons. Meetings were held in 7 of the 17 provincial constituencies. Their purpose was to acquaint farmers with the agricultural policies of the respective political parties and to acquaint candidates with the policies of the SFU.

**Farm Insurance.** Steps have been taken by the SFU to greatly increase the number of policyholders of its farm accident and liability insurance plan. To facilitate this, an insurance school was held under the leadership of personnel from the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office. The 1-day school, held in Saskatoon on March 14, was attended by 33 persons from various areas of the province interested in actively promoting the sale of farm accident and liability insurance plan.

**Beauty Contest.** The young people's section of the SFU is, this year, holding a Prairie Queen Contest. Candidates from each of the 17 SFU districts will compete for the title of Prairie Queen. Proceeds from the project will be directed toward the SFU building fund, in order that SFU plans for completion of the joint building project with the Saskatoon Labor Council may be realized in 1958.

**Grain Supports.** SFU President Alf Gleave termed Federal Agriculture Minister's reported statement, that putting price supports under western grains would lead to the ultimate destruction of the Canadian Wheat Board, was merely a cover-up for the lack of provision of any price protection for western grain farmers. Mr. Gleave noted that the initial prices on wheat, oats and barley could be lowered at any time and did not necessarily bear any relationship to the costs of production. The SFU has been pressing to have western grains marketed through the C.W.B. included under provisions of the Agricultural Stabilization Act.

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has submitted an extensive brief to the Minister of National Revenue and his department request-

ing the removal of tariffs and sales tax on a wide range of items used for farming in the production of agricultural products.

The CFA argues that the policy of making it possible for farmers to purchase their machinery and other instruments of production at the lowest possible cost is a sound one, particularly in view of the stiff world market competition that Canadian agriculture has to face; the importance to Canadian consumers of not unnecessarily adding to the costs of food; and, in general, the difficulty experienced by farmers in realizing adequate returns for their produce.

The list of items on which specific relief from tariff and/or sales tax was asked follows: Metal poultry and hog feeders; water troughs and drinking founts; metal egg laying nests; wire egg baskets; metal bins for storing hay, silage and grain; perforated metal flooring for grain drying; sheet metal roofing for farm buildings; all bee-keeper supplies; electric fences and electric water pail heaters; pumps for irrigation and drainage; steel fence posts and wire fencing; steel stanchions; livestock scales; earth moving equipment; vitamins, antibiotics and chemicals for livestock and mixed feeds; artificial insemination apparatus; and engines and motors.

**MFAC Meeting Valid.** An application instigated by the Grandview Co-operative Elevator Association for an injunction against the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture and Co-operation was rejected in Court of Queen's Bench by Mr. Justice Ralph Maybank in mid-March. If granted, the injunction would have prevented the MFAC from implementing any resolutions or policies endorsed at the organization's annual meeting last June.

In his judgment Mr. Justice Maybank said the plaintiff, the Grandview Co-operative Elevator Association had no right to sue the defendant in this sort of action. Two principal reasons were given for this ruling:

1. It is not necessary, as the defendant's by-laws stand, that its various member bodies must choose their delegates by a popular vote; and,
2. A shareholder has no right to sue his company over what may be termed company matters of a management nature.

